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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following account of the Agricultural Exhibition at Ranaghat:

Our exhibition which opened on the 26th instant passed off smoothly. Considering the short notice that was given and the ignorance of the people generally in regard to the object of an agricultural exhibition the success that attended the Ranaghat show could not be greater. The arrangements for the show, the decorations generally and the pavillion for Darbar, which was fitted up in the spacious compound adjoining the Sub-Divisional Offices were pronounced to be quite tasteful. The scenic effects of the entire ground when illuminated on the night of the 27th were declared by eyes best qualified to judge among whom there were some European ladies as simply "lovely".

At the opening Darbar which would have been presided by the Commissioner of the Presidency Division Mr. Peacock he could not attend, But the letter which he addressed to the Vice-President of the Committee and was read by him was as observed by Babu Chunder Sikher greatly encouraging to the Committee, In the Commissioner's absence Mr. Taylor the District Magistrate Presided. The meeting was very largely attended some 800 gentlemen of the district and many from Calcutta having come to show the interest they took in the undertaking. Babu Chunder Sikher Banerjee at the request of the President explained the object with which the exhibition was started, the expedition with which the arrangements were pushed forward, the interest which the people of the sub-division displayed as evinced by the spontaneous growth of the fund to about Rs 4,000 in three weeks. He also explained the sections into which the exhibition yard was divided, the rules drawn out for and show sale and alluded to the subjects for which the medals and prizes were meant, among which the best cow and the best improved native plough and the best treatise on agriculture in Bengali were prominently noticed. Mr. J. Wilson of the *Daily News* and Mr. Bowe the Inspector of Schools of the Presidency Division who followed him treated the audience with speeches which were as amusing as they were humorous, expressing great sympathy with the managing committee and wishing that the exhibition may be annual.

Babu Chunder Sikhur Banerjee thanked the last two speakers for their good wishes and the patrons for the support they had given and concluded by asking the President to declare the exhibition open.

Mr. Taylor very heartly thanked Babu Chunder Sikher for the great energy with which he had worked up his idea and wished the exhibition may come to be an annual institution and prove a great success year after year and then declared the exhibition open.

The President, the Members of the Committee and the visitors then walked round the exhibition compound which in no time was thronged, the Police taking care to preserve order at the gate and the surrounding grounds.

The articles at the show were open to all comers from 9 A.M, to 5 P.M. for the succeeding two days during which the number of visitors must have counted about 20,000. On the last day on the 28th instant the prizes were distributed when Mr. Taylor presided. Altogether 84 prizes were given, 7 in silver medals costing Rs. 24 each and 560 Rs. in cash.

The medals were for—

1. The best cow to Prannath Mallick
2. Best collection of agricultural implements
3. Best paddy-threshing machine by Grish Chundra Chowdhari
4. Best sugar cane press to Alex. Sheriff
5. Best woolen shawl by a native lady
6. Best embroidered cotton cloth to Sreram Bungo, weaver, Santipur.
7. Best treatise on agriculture in Bengali by Babu Kalimoi Ghatack. The medals for the best improved plough or the best shop could not be awarded as out of the 3 competitors for the former none came up to the required standard and none competed for the latter.

The amusements provided for both Europeans and Natives were very much relished. The fireworks, illumination the sports of the chases, foot-races, jumps, &c,, were witnessed with great pleasure by the high and low alike. It is to be greatly wished that this rural festival *fete champetee* which united amusements with utility may become an annual institution and in future more attractive.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following postal grievance:

Generally speaking important services are rendered to the public by the Post Office, but none but the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. When an insured parcel is marked doubtful the rule is "The Post Master of——will be good enough to summon the addressee and have the contents of the insured parcel examined by him in his presence——." Now I would beg to know whether under this rule every person without distinction of sex, position, or rank, such as a Rajah, a Nabab, a high-class judicial officer, or a purdanusheen woman, will have in obedience to a personal summons to attend at the door of a Post Master on Rs. 15 to 20 a month. If there is really no exception, no body aware of such a rule will ever wish to insure a parcel, for, no gentleman or lady of position and no purdanusheen woman will bear the ignominy of going to the Post Office to receive delivery thereof in the event of its being marked doubtful, not to mention the inconvenience and loss of time to be incurred thereby.

Cannot the postal authorities mitigate the hardship of such a rule which is not only irritating but impracticable to comply with at least for a certain number of persons?

AS A GOOD deal of curiosity exists on the subject we may state, says the *Friend of India*, that the clever letters that have been appearing in *Vanity Fair* signed "Ali Baba" are the work of Captain Beauchamp, R E, Under-Secretary to the North-West Government in the Public Works Department and a distinguished scholar. As no contradiction has appeared, perhaps we may accept the statement as correct.

IT IS SAID that the fields in the famine districts of South India have been greatly benefited by the respite from cultivation which they had for two years, and that such harvests as have appeared this last season have not been witnessed for a very long time. There is no unmixed evil in this world.

THERE IS no longer any Southampton-mail route to England. Beginning this week the whole mail for the United Kingdom is to go to Brindisi and thence up overland through Italy and France. The postage on each letter is to be 4½ annas, on each newspaper 1½, and on each book packet 1½ annas for every 2 ounces; each post-card 2 annas.

THE FRENCH CHAMBER of Deputies have made a grant of 600,000 frs. for the preliminary survey of the proposed railway across the Desert of Sahara. The probable route will be the Algerian route, starting from Constantine and running nearly due south, through Batna, Biskra, Taggurt, and Ouargla to Isalah, leaving El-Goliah and its ragged hills to the west.

WE NOTE THAT A GIANT FORAGE plant has lately been introduced into France, and much interest has arisen in agricultural circles by the experiments in its cultivation. Its name is *Reana luxuriana*, and its nature is that of a colossal grass, much resembling maize, but differing from that plant in its branched panicles, its numerous rootlets, and superior luxuriance of leaf. A full grown plant is said to yield enough food to satisfy the requirements of a couple of oxen for a whole day. Both leaves and stem contain a large amount of sugar, are tender and juicy, and are devoured by cattle. The specimens are natives of Guatemala, and the natives there esteem it a special delicacy. The experiments in France have only partially succeeded, as the plant even in the warm south, has never yet withstood a winter out of doors. Perhaps it will suit better the climate of India.

TUESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY.

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA was lately measured in many places by Mr. Unthank, an American engineer lately engaged on a survey for a Chinese Railway. We give from the *Masonic Newspaper* the following particulars of Mr. Unthank's measurements:

"His measurements give the height at 18 feet, and a width on top of 15 feet. Every few hundred yards there is a tower of 24 feet square and from 20 to 45 feet high. The foundation of the wall is solid granite. Mr. Unthank brought with him a brick from the wall, which is supposed to have been made 200 years before the time of Christ. In building this immense stone fence to keep out Tartars, the builders never attempted to avoid mountains or chasms to save expense. For 1300 miles the wall goes over plain and mountain, and every foot of the foundation is in solid granite and the rest of the structure solid masonry. In some places the wall is built smooth up against the bank or canyons of precipices, where there is a sheer descent of 1000 feet. Small streams are arched over, but in the larger streams the wall runs to the water's edge, and a tower is built on each side. On the top of the wall there are breastworks or defences facing in and out so that the defending force can pass from one tower to the other without being exposed to an enemy from either side. To calculate the time of building or cost of this wall is beyond human skill. So far as the magnitude of the work is concerned, it surpasses everything in ancient or modern times of which there is any trace. The pyramids of Egypt are nothing compared to it.

THE LONDON STATESMAN is fighting away India's battle in right earnest. The last number of this paper contains a very good article on the new taxes in India. The writer thus exposes the failure of the Income tax in India. Instancing Bengal he says:

Throughout the whole province, with its 60,000,000 of people, the general poverty is such that only 21,000 incomes were returned at above £100 a year to Mr. Wilson's Income-tax, and only 64,000 at more than £50 a year. Under the tax, as levied in 1870-71, which went down to incomes of £50, the total number of assessees was less than 128,000, more than half of whom were in Class 1, the lowest of all. The returns for all India, with its 250,000,000 of people, under Mr. Wilson's income-tax, were:—

53,000	incomes of	£100 and upwards
141,500	,,	£50 to £100
500,000	,,	£20 to £50

The three-and-a-half per cent. tax of 1870-71, which at home would have yielded £8,000,000 sterling from 30,000,000 of people only, produced but £650,000 from a population of 60,000,000 or double that amount.

The very advocates of the tax admit "that no direct income-tax should touch incomes below £100 a year." The staunchest advocates of the tax would thus have us confine its application to 50,000 persons out of a population of 250,000,000, while to reach even this small class, we must go as low as incomes of £100 a year. But in making this recommendation it is forgotten that "direct taxation, founded on extensive exemptions, is only another phrase for confiscation." Only 53,000 persons in all India were returned, under Mr. Wilson's tax, as possessing incomes of more than £100 a year. Turn to the United Kingdom, from which this device was borrowed, and see how it applies here. Out of our small population, then, of 30,000,000, we find;—

995,688	persons with	incomes of	£100 to £300
173,086	,,	,,	300 to 1,000
47,228	,,	,,	1,000 to 5,000
8,048	,,	,,	5,000 to 400,000
1,224,000			

Look now at Indian statistics for comparison with these:—

141,500	persons with	incomes of	£50 to £100
53,000	,,	,,	100 and upwards
194,500			

With figures like these staring us in the face, it is amazing that the Income-tax notion should still be encouraged in India. It is unsuited to the circumstances of the country, and is possible only upon the principle of exempting 999 persons out of every 1,000. And yet this is the tax to which our Strachey financiers have been looking for years, as the future backbone and mainstay of Indian finance.

The writer thus concludes:

Direct taxes based upon the exemption of the many are simply confiscation, call them by what name you please. "Every man of authority upon financial subjects," says Mr. Gladstone, "agrees that the odious features of the Income-tax "cannot by any means be removed or modified;" while in India the special objection lies against it, that it is necessarily founded on the exemption of 999 persons out of every 1,000, making it but another phrase for confiscation. Add to this fact the consideration that the only machinery by which we can collect the tax is one of fraud, extortion, and violence, and we see the full measure of the unwisdom that would tax India as we have been taxing it for twenty years past.

We entirely concur.

ACCORDING to the latest accounts Nihilism is spreading to an alarming extent in the Russian army. Four officers in one regiment were arrested a few days ago on a charge of disseminating revolutionary intelligence amongst their subordinates and distributing pamphlets, by the authorities of St. Petersburg. Seditious prints and documents were also found at the officers' lodgings. The two officers who had assisted eight political prisoners to escape have been arrested, and in two districts where Nihilism was discovered in the regiments special courts-martial have been established.

A VICTIM OF FASHION.—A young girl of nineteen died in a London street the other day so suddenly that an inquest was held, a *post-mortem* examination made, and medical evidence produced. The result left no doubt that death was accelerated by tight-lacing, and that was the verdict recorded by the coroner. Strange that no amount of female education can dethrone the Tyrant, Fashion!

THERE HAS BEEN going on an ungallant exchange of amenities between certain German and Russian writers regarding the women of Germany and Russia. The Russian describes the German women as "cows," while the German says that the Russian women are no better. We can hardly reproduce the scandalous chronicle of the shady side of St. Petersburg society with which the German writer favours us. It is only necessary to say that his stories belong to the Divorce Court type of literature. But the odd part of this letter is that he connects all these scandals and immoralities with the movement for the higher education of women, which is making great way in Russia.

IN a speech at the recent Conservative meeting at Leeds, Mr. Bourke stated that Mr. Gladstone had sent an "emissary to Russia" for the purpose of translating his pamphlet on the Bulgarian outrages into Russian "with the view of augmenting the power of the war party," in 1876. Mr. Gladstone has taken Mr. Bourke to task for this assertion, and the correspondence relative to the matter which passed has been published. Mr. Bourke, in replying to a demand for his authority for the statement, quotes from the *Journal de St Petersbourg* and the *Agency Russe* to show that Mr. Alexander, who distributed the pamphlet in Russia, was regarded as the "envoy" of Mr. Gladstone. In his rejoinder Mr. Gladstone shows that Mr. Alexander could in no sense be regarded as his "agent," and he reminds Mr. Bourke that it is not for an Under Secretary of State to be dependent for information merely on newspaper reports. Mr. Bourke declines to acknowledge that he is in error, but sends the correspondence to the newspapers at the suggestion of Mr. Gladstone. This is not honorable. Mr. Bourke should have acknowledged his error.

WEDNESDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY.

WE CONGRATULATE Mr. Caithness on his election as Master of the Trades Association for the current year. Mr. Caithness is an excellent man of business.

AT THE LAST ANNUAL meeting of the Members of the Calcutta Public Library the Hon'ble the Maharajah Narendrakrishna Bahadur presided. He thus reviewed the year's operations :

I have much pleasure in informing you that the Calcutta Public Library was instrumental, during the past year, in diffusing literary and useful knowledge amongst all classes of the community as in the preceding years. Our reading-room was frequented by those who sought to improve their minds, or to obtain any specific information they required. The circulation of books exceeded that of the preceeding year, thereby showing that the choice of the Library in the selection of books was approved by the reading public. Our income was steady and sonnd. We should be glad to receive public support to enable us to extend the sphere of usefulness of the institution. We had expended a certain amount in the preparation of a catalogue of the books in the Library, but our expenditure on this account, I am sorry to observe, was not recouped by its sale. If we, however, find a demand for it, we shall publish additional ones in proper time. I am happy to bring to your notice that our Secretary, Babu Gopeekissen Mitter, continues to be useful to the institution.

THE FOLLOWING are the results of the last opium sale :

	Chests.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Proceeds.
Behar ...	2350	1310	1295	1302 9 6	3061100
Benares ...	2350	1265	12·5	1247 7 3	2931525

IT APPEARS that since the institution of the Victoria Cross for bravery in 1856, it has been bestowed on no less than 368 officers and men in the military and naval services. Seven who had gained the cross died before it was formally conferred upon them, and 29 have died since they received the honour. Of the 368 heroes who won the distinction, 171 were commissioned officers, the remaining 197 being non-commissioned officers and men in both services. A pension of 10*l.* per annum is bestowed upon the non-commissioned officers and men who receive the cross.

IT IS RUMOURED that Russia is preparing to make a campaign in the spring against Merv under General Kaufmann, and that the Khan of Khiva and the Ameer of Bokhara will take part in the expedition.

SIR CHARLES DILKE, on behalf of the Radical party, says the London correspondent of a contemporary, will immediately, after Parliament meets, call attention to the executions which have taken place at Kabul during the occupation of General Roberts. The report that the Government had ordered the executions to be stopped is contradicted. The general feeling on this subject in "serious" circles may be gathered from the resolution unanimously adopted by the united Presbyterian Presbytery the other day :—"That a memorial be transmitted to Her Majesty earnestly entreating her to exercise her authority to put a stop to the atrocities which are being perpetrated in Afghanistan in burning villages and in leaving helpless women and children to die of cold and hunger—proceedings at variance not only with the dictates of Christianity, but even with the laws of civilized warfare."

THURSDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY.

A CHINSURAH CORRESPONDENT complains that while the Municipal Commissioners rigorously exact the taxes from the people, they are not equally careful in their economic disposal of the same. They have erected a jetty over a tank at a cost of Rs. 650 for the purpose of drawing drinking water for the Europeans, and yet the same tank supplied water to the troops located here, for whom no such arrangement had been deemed needful.

AT A GENERAL MEETING of the National Mahomedan Association held on the 1st intant Prince Mahummud Furrokh Shah the Vice-President was elected President in the room of the late Newab Ameer Ali and Newab Mir Mohummud Ali to be Vice-President.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that a barrister who went to practise at Chittagong and was to have delivered a lecture at the collegiate school on the evening of the 17th ultimo, has been placed under restraint by order of the Joint Magistrate. The suspicion is said to have been groundless and the restraint illegal, but we have not heard further on the subject.

PROFESSOR MAX MULLER thus kindly notices Babu Gopaul Chunder Sarkar's recent publication "Viramitrodaya":

Accept my best thanks for your translation of the Vibhaga Chapter of the Viramitrodaya. Both text and translation seem to have been most carefully executed, and the book will prove very useful, not only to practical lawyers, but the students of Sanskrit Literature also. Much has still to be done before we can gain a clear idea of the historical growth of Indian Law. You may have seen Dr. Buhler's translation of the sutras of Apastamba and Gautama in my sacred Books of the East. At present a translation of the Institutes of Vishnu by Dr. Jolly is passing through the Press, and in it the question of Inheritance is very fully treated. Any Dharma works written in sutras should be carefully looked for. They seem to me to contain the ancient history of Hindu Law, while the sloka works, even the so-called Laws of Manu, are hardly anterior to the Saka era, in that form in which we possess them. At least I know of no argument to prove their higher authority.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the first number of the *Calcutta Medical News*, which is "a monthly abstract of the medical sciences." It is published by Messrs. S. D. Mallik and Co. under the patronage of Dr. Smith, Principal, Medical College. The extracts given show both discrimination and judgment.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Oriental Miscellany* sustains its well established reputation. There is a good variety of subjects. "Ghosts and Goblins," "Photographs from Hell," and the "Bhuddist Philosopher of Germany" are well worth perusal.

MR. MONRO is appointed to act as Presidency Commissioner during the absence of Mr. Peacock. This is a good selection. Mr. Lyall acts for Mr. Monro as Inspector General of Police, and Mr. Forbes as Magistrate of Howrah. Mr. Wells, Magistrate and Collector of 24-Pergunnahs, takes furlough and Mr. Quinn acts for him.

FRIDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY.

WE ARE GLAD to observe that the Indian Association for the cultivation of Science has commenced to publish abstracts of the lectures delivered at that institution. We give below the first specimen, which is an analysis of lectures on Sound by Very Rev. Father Lafont. The first lecture on the Production of Sound was delivered on the 29th January last :

Noise and Sound, in what they differ.—*musical* Sound may be produced by the rhythmic repetition of *noises*, illustrated by Trevelyan's experiment, by Savart's Wheel, Any body when sonorous is in a state of vibration, whether that body be a solid, a liquid or a gas, illustrated by the tuning fork, the glass bell with bead-pendulums, by streached strings, by the syren of Cagniard-Latour, by the musical sling, and the mocking bird. When a solid brass rod vibrates longitudinally, its elongations become visible by being made to strike an ivory ball suspended before its extremities. An organ-pipe when sounding contains air in vibration, as proved by testing it with a small drum. Conditions for the production of musical sounds : the periodic recurrence of movements communicated to an elastic medium, with sufficient rapidity to blend the successive impressions upon the ear into one continuous sensation.

WE HAVE received a statement of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of the Science giving the number of prizes to be awarded to students attending the lectures at the Association during the session of 1880 :

First Prize of Rs. 100 is awarded to the student who shall obtain the highest number of marks in the annual examination, provided that number does not come short of two-thirds of the marks from written, and one-half from practical, examination.

Second Prize of Rs. 60, to the student who shall pass second best in the annual examination, provided the number of marks he obtains does not come short of one-half from written, and one-third from practical, examination.

Third Prize of Rs. 40, to the student who shall pass third in the annual examination, provided the number of marks he obtains does not come short of one-third from written, and one-fourth from practical examination.

The student who shall pass first in Physics and the student who shall pass first in Chemistry shall each receive a Silver Medal.

The student who shall pass first in both Physics and Chemistry shall obtain the Gold Medal in which case the Silver Medals will be given to the students who stand second in those branches.

Scholarships are awarded to students who shall obtain at least half the number of marks in both written and practical examination. Scholarship-holders must attend the lectures and work in the laboratory of the Association during the time they draw their scholarships.

As the Session for 1880 has just commenced, and, as the next examination will be held in the beginning of the next year, students who intend to compete for the Prizes, Medals and Scholarships are requested to have their names registered at the office of the Association at once.

Admission Fee—Reduced from *Annas* 8 to 4 for a single lecture ; from Rs. 3 to 1½ in advance for 12 consecutive lectures.

Students may avail themselves of Members Tickets (under Rule 13 of the Association) provided they bring a certificate either from a Member or from the head of the Institution to which they belong to the effect that they will attend the lectures regularly present themselves at the annual examination and that they are unable to pay for the lectures.

WE CALL ATTENTION to an advertisement of Messrs. Osler & Co. inviting inspection of their grand Crystal Glass Cabinet or side-board, which was made for the Paris Exhibition, and is now on view in their Show-room. We have seen this cabinet, which is a splendid work of art, unique in design and execution. It is well worth seeing.

IT IS STATED that the young Maharaja of Burdwan has given up his idea of visiting England.

THE COMMITTEE on Simla allowances has according to the *Englishman* made the following recommendations :

All allowances hitherto granted for travelling to the hills to officers and their families will continue to be given only for the ensuing season. Those who desire to settle down with their families at Simla will be allowed this one opportunity of doing so. Henceforward, that is, after March and April next, wives and children will not get their expenses paid to Simla. If they return to Calcutta in November, 1880, or desire to go up again in 1881, their husbands and fathers must provide the expenditure, for the purpose of reckoning travelling allowances to officers only, up or down, they are placed in two classes, *viz.*, the first, including all civil as well as military on the staff of the Government of India, covenanted or uncovenanted, drawing salaries down to, and not less than Rs. 400 a month ; the second, all below that salary. The first class will be limited to bare travelling allowance at the rate of three annas by rail and eight annas by road ; the second to ½ annas by rail and four annas by road, nothing more. All simla allowances to the uncovenanted are to be abolished, except one-third of salary ; provided that, in the case of men provided with quarters, it does not exceed Rs. 50 ; or in the case of those unprovided with quarters, Rs. 75 a month.

We are afraid these recommendations will press hard upon the poor keranies.

THE INDU-PROKASH thus notices the rumour that the Government will give a full pay pension to Dr. Rajendralala Mitra in order to enable him to carry on his literary labours unfettered by uncongenial official duties :

Lord Lytton cannot, we think, do a more graceful act than afford one of the most advanced and indefatigable Native Sanskrit scholar of India the means of securing that leisure which is so necessary to a successful prosecution of research into the antiquities and archæology of this country. It is needed as much in the interests of learning as in recognition of meritorious services.

WE ARE glad to learn that in Bombay a new scientific journal will be issued, entitled the *Scentific Indian*.

THERE has been another kicking case in Calcutta. A native lad, Shaik Munglu, died from the effects of a kick given by one Mr. Charles Berry Fergus. At the Coroner's inquest the following verdict was entered by the Jury :

"Found by a majority of four that the deceased died from the effects of a kick dealt by the accused C. B. Fergus, and that the said C. B. Fergus is guilty of having caused the death by a rash and negligent act, and also of having caused hurt."

SATURDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY.

THERE were 252 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 31st January last, of which 20 were from cholera, 2 from small-pox, 102 from fevers, 38 from bowel complaints, 4 from accidents, 7 from pthisis, 9 from tetanus, 10 from convulsions and the rest from other causes. Six children were still-born and 8 persons died from old age. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 12.

THERE WAS a Garden Party at Government House on Thursday last. Notwithstanding the recent Pugri Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor several native gentlemen, we saw, appeared with "brimless caps."

WE ARE sorry to record the death of the Maharaja of Rewah. His Highness was noted for love of sports.

ANOTHER BENGALI gentleman of rank has passed away ! We are sorry to announce the death of Raja Barodakant Roy of Jessore. He belonged to one of the most ancient houses of Bengal, was kind-hearted and open-handed, and a perfect gentleman in manners.

THE MAHARAJA of Burdwan and Rai Dhunput Sing Bahadur have each subscribed Rs. 1000 to the Irish Famine Fund.

A TERRIBLE fire broke out at Simla on the 5th instant destroying property to the value of one and a half lac of rupees.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the receipt of a copy of Atkin's Railway Service Pocket-book for 1880. It contains much that will prove useful to engineers and other men of that ilk. It is also fit for use by the general public.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, February 2nd.—A memorial has been forwarded to Lord Beaconsfield, asking for an inquiry respecting the execution at Kabul of persons not implicated in the massacre at the Residency. The *Times* publishes a telegram from India, stating that the report that the Viceroy is desirous of resigning is untrue.

3rd.—Experiments have proved that it was double loading which caused the bursting of the *Thunderer's* gun. Obituary.—Colonel Munro, 93rd Highlanders.

4th.—The *Gazette* announces the promotion of Major St. John to a Lieutenant Colonelcy, Royal Engineers, in recognition of his special services in Afghanistan.

5th.—Parliament was opened to-day by Her Majesty the Queen in person, but the speech, was read by the Lord Chancellor. Her Majesty, in her speech, says that her relations with Foreign Powers are friendly and that events since the prorogation of Parliament tend to the maintenance of peace based on the principles of the Berlin Treaty, though much remains to be done to repair the disorder still existing in many parts of Turkey. Her Majesty then refers to the heroic defence of the Residency at Kabul and the massacre of the Embassy there, and praises the skill with which such a rapid march was made on Kabul. The operations reflect the highest credit on the officers and men of both British and native forces engaged. Her Majesty then says that the abdication of the Amir and the unsettled condition of the country render the recall of her troops impossible at present, but that the principle and action of Government will remain unchanged and that while determined to make the frontier strong it desires to establish friendly relations with the Afghan rulers and people. With respect to Cape affairs Her Majesty hopes the time is approaching for important advances to be made towards an African Confederation. Her Majesty then refers to the measure taken in connection with Irish Relief Bill which provides for necessary advances from the Church surplus. The Queen hopes to resume the Criminal Code and improvement in the Bankruptcy Law, and announces Bills for enlarging the powers of owners of settled

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land to simplify its conveyance and also to amend the Lunacy Laws.

5th.—In the House of Commons Mr. O'Donnell gave notice of an amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech, pointing out the systematic neglect of Irish affairs.

6th.—In the House of Commons Mr. Wedderburn gave notice of a motion that it was desirable to confer on the people of India a share in the representation of the Council of India. The Lords voted the address in reply to the speech from the Throne after a short debate. The Earl of Beaconsfield said that when the military frontier was secure, our troops would be withdrawn, and a British Envoy retained at Kabul. The Duke of Argyll made an attack on the Viceroy and General Roberts.

6th.—In the House of Lords, the Earl of Beaconsfield, replying to questions put by Lord Granville, said that at the suggestion of France, British Government had submitted certain proposals for settlement of the Greek frontier question, which he believed would be conclusive. Question of Montenegrin frontier, he said, would be shortly arranged. With respect to Afghanistan his Lordship said British Government was opposed to the policy of annexation, and was in favor of Afghan self-government. His Lordship then expressed his disbelief in charges brought against General Roberts. Sir Stafford Northcote in the Commons yielding to persistent opposition of the Home rule members, has agreed to adjourn the address in reply to the speech from the Throne.

7th.—Afghan despatches from the Secretary of State for India to the Viceroy, dated the 11th December, have been published from which it seems clear that the establishment of a single permanent Afghan Government is impracticable. Mr. Stanhope, under Secretary for India, replying to a question in the House of Commons said:—"The despatch of Duke of Argyll to the Amir in 1869 expressly designated Her Majesty the Queen as Empress of India. Mr. Stanhope said it was true that the correspondence between Russia and the Amir had been discovered in Kabul, but that Government declined to produce the papers because it would be inexpedient and prejudicial to the public service.

New York, February 2nd.—The New York Press condemn generally the policy of Mr. Parnell.

4th.—A separate Irish subscription is appealed for by the *New York Herald*, the proprietors of which have alone subscribed one hundred thousand dollars. Public opinion in Canada is strongly opposed to Mr. Parnell's policy.

St. Petersburg, February 2nd.—The Russian Press deprecate the occupation of Herat by Persia under the auspices of England.

2nd.—A conflict between the Police and Nihilists took place here to-day. Several arrests were made. A revolutionary proclamation has been issued by the Russian students, to which they declare that they will continue the struggle in the death against the Russian Government.

Berlin February 4th.—The *National Zeitung* announces that the Austrian Government is determined to increase the national defences and that the fortification of Vienna is being discussed.

WE HAVE received a long letter about the recent caste meeting at the house of Raja Rajendranarain Deb Bahadur. We think matters of this kind had better be left out of the arena of newspaper discussion.

WE ARE requested to mention that Babu Mahanund Gupta, Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Tumlook Sub-division, has succeeded in raising a fund for the establishment of a Library and a public garden in the sub-divisional head-quarters.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India for 1878. 2. Report on the Internal Trade of Bengal for 1878-79. 3. Notifications relative to Indian Public Loans from 1822 to 1879. 4. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for December 1879. 5. A Treatise in Bengali on the Delhi Assemblage. By Rajendranath Ghose. 6. Forest Administration Report of Ajmere for 1878-79. 7. Ditto Ditto of N. W. P. and Oudh for 1878-79. 8. Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal. 9. *Calcutta Medical News*, No. 1. 10. *Oriental Miscellany* for February. 11. Trade and Navigation Returns No. 9 of 1879-80. 12. A Comprehensive Key to Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare. Part I. By Russicklal Sircar. 13. Ditto Ditto, Part II. By Ditto. 14. Thacker's Bengal Directory for 1880. 15. Legal Companion, Vol. VIII. No. 1.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on Wednesday 11th Inst., at 4½ P. M.

Subject: Chemical force and Chemical Constitution of bodies.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on Saturday the 14th Inst., at 3 P. M.

Subject:—Classification of Metals and Metals of the Alkalies.

The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1880.

THE SURPLUS.

WE thank the Press Commissioner for putting us in a position to estimate the probable surplus at the end of the current financial year. Taking two items only there is a surplus of about two millions. Thus the saving by diminished rate of exchange will amount to about Rs. 85,79,335, and the increase of revenue from opium to about Rs. 1,30,00,000, calculated on the rate of increase shewn in the statements given below:

Remittances to the Home Treasury 1879-80:

	£	Rs.	Average rate.	Loss compared with outturn at an Exchange of 2s. the rupee.
			S. D.	
Estimated for the whole year	...15000000	189520000	1-7	39520000
In the month of December 1879..	1680409	20000000	1-7·16	3195910
To the end of the month of December 1879	...11118002	134102725	1-7·89	22922705

Opium Revenue to date compared with the Estimate for the year 1879-80.

Presidency.	Latest Month.			Ten sales of Bengal opium and 9 months pass duty on opium imported from Bombay.		
	Estimate.	Actual.	Better than Estimate.	Estimate.	Actual.	Better than Estimate.
Bengal ...	4888000	5787275	899275	51688000	57175086	5487086
Bombay...	2563000	3683050	1120050	20206000	24484588	4278588
Total Rs.	7451000	9470325	2019325	71894000	81659674	9765674

We have no positive information how the other branches of revenue will fare, but it is enough for us to know that there will be a surplus of more than two millions from two items of the budget. When such is the case, should the License tax be re-imposed? It should be borne in mind that there are several schemes of retrenchment on foot, and if they be brought to maturity, they will result in large savings. Take for instance the Public Works Department. The reorganization scheme has been published, from which we take the following facts:

The total of the requirements of all provinces has been ascertained to be approximately as follows, and this has been accepted provisionally as the total sanctioned strength of the Engineer Staff throughout India:—

18 Chief Engineers.
46 Superintending Engineers,
356 Executive ,,
476 Assistant ,,

or a total of 896.

Deducting the number in Madras and Bombay there will be—

14 Chief Engineers.
37 Superintending Engineers.
285 Executive ,,
381 Assistant ,,

or a total of 717 officers directly under the Government of India.

These, again, divided according to provisional scales and Code rules, become as follows:—

Chief Engineers,	I Class	...	6	
,, ,,	II ,,	...	4	
,, ,,	III ,,	...	4	
				14
Superintending Engineers,	1st Grade	...	13	
,, ,,	2nd ,,	...	12	
,, ,,	3rd ,,	...	12	
				37
Executive Engineers,	1st Grade	...	55	
,, ,,	2nd ,,	...	69	
,, ,,	3rd ,,	...	71	
,, ,,	4th ,,	...	90	
				285
Assistant Engineers,	1st Grade	..	128	
,, ,,	2nd and 3rd Grades and Apprentices.		253	
				381
	Total	...		717

The following is the distribution according to provisional scales:—

Provinces.	Chief Engineers, I, II & III.	Superintending Engineers.	Executive Engineers. 1	2	3	4	Assistant Engineers, 1	2&3	
Bengal ...	2	6	7	9	9	11	16	32	92
N. W. P. and Oudh.	2	4	9	11	11	13	20	39	109
Punjab ...	2	5	7	10	10	12	18	35	99
Local Administration ...	2	5	9	9	10	16	19	38	108
Military Works ...	1	5	5	6	7	8	12	23	67
Railways ...	5	12	18	24	24	30	43	86	242
	14	37	55	69	71	90	128	253	717

Thus a considerable reduction has been effected. The money result has not been shewn, but it cannot be inconsiderable. Then there are army retrenchments, which have been recommended by Sir Ashley Eden's Commission. These recommendations if carried out will result in a saving of a million and a quarter. The effects of these retrenchment measures will not be temporary but permanent. The prospects of the Indian Treasury are thus looking up, and will it be reasonable or just in the face of this prosperity to burden the people with the continuance of the License tax? We hope Sir John Strachey will not allow his hobby to override his judgment. He ought to keep a financial reserve like the License tax in his portfolio to meet future emergencies.

THE TURBAN EDICT.

A SET of amiable milk-and-water reformers have had their nerves sat upon by the Bengal Government. Like most reformers of the day, they had hoped to win golden crowns with the least possible risk or trouble; and they have been sent away with a flea in their ears, and circlets of thistles on their brows. Owing to excessive intellectual labour, or some other cause which it is not worth our while to define, these men had suffered much from determination of blood to the head, and to overcome it they hit upon the notable expedient of discarding the use of the turban. It might be that they had to wear the turban for a few minutes once a week or so, when they visited Europeans, or at Levees and Durbars, perhaps once in the year; but to delicately constitutioned people even that was too much, and they sat to devise a remedy. They addressed a letter—yes, a letter and not a petition or a memorial—"to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal," to "beg to prey" that they "may be permitted to adopt the European custom of uncovering the head in token of respect, in *durbars*, courts of justice, and all other official occasions and places." They had many reasons to urge in support of their prayer. They pointed out that the "progress of refinement" was at stake: that "Western culture" was opposed to *pugris*: that the wearing of that hated article of head dress "was inappropriate in every way": that it "did not act as a sufficient protection from the glare and heat of the sun": that it was "unsuited to walking or riding, and to all active occupations": that "the enforced wearing of the *pugri* against their sense of the fitness of things cannot but act as a cause of moral depression on the people whose welfare is entrusted" to His Honor's care: that "Government does not gain any thing by such enforcement": and that it "acts as a drawback to easy intercourse between European and Native gentlemen, officially as well as socially." They might have added to this list what they often urge in conversation—and what in fact is the point where the shoe pinches—and that is that the pugri makes them look "chaprasi-like." Perhaps they did not urge it because the argument would equally apply to the chapkan, which is alike both for the reformer and the chaprasi. Then they want a "vent" for the bump of their veneration to bubble up every now and then, and the pagri like a rag stops the bung-hole. But even without these the catalogue of woes is overwhelming enough. There can be no question that "refinement" must suffer when the wisdom-box is not fairly ventilated by the passing breeze; and refinement-destroyed "Western culture" must be doomed. And who dares question that "the brimless cap," which the reformers use, is a better protection from the glare and heat of the sun than a turban? is it not quite a parasol—if not a *tokri*—in its protective capacity? The Marhattas of yore, the troopers and European officers of the native cavalry of Her Majesty, and equestrian people all over India, have found the pugri no impediment to riding and walking; nay, they find it better than hats and caps which cannot be kept in position without a chinstrap; but then they do not hail from the East, nor have they any idea of the "fitness of things," nor are they over-loaded with the weight of "Western culture." The luckless laundress found by experience that her laden beast of burden always succumbed under the weight of the rice-stirrer. Again, when the brain is heated morality must suffer, and morality destroyed there can be no easy social intercourse between the European and the native. The case is complete in every detail, and we cannot withhold our humble meed of praise for the authors of this admirable letter in which they

have so ably and so truthfully given tongue to the woes of their countrymen. Our readers surely would wish to know who they are, and we cannot refuse to gratify their curiosity. The first subscriber to the letter is Babu Tarinikumar Ghosh, a Deputy Magistrate of the 4th or the 5th grade, late of Dacca, and has for his following a brother Deputy, a Small Cause Court Judge, a couple of Munsiffs, and a number of pleaders, keranis, moharirs and mukhtears. Babu Krishna Chandra Roy, Deputy Magistrate, hails from Mymensing, and brings a similar following. Burrisal is represented by a Sub-Deputy, and his suite. Kaliganj has produced only a Sub-registrar and a pleader to fight for the cause of "Western culture;" but the Sub-division is a small one, and evidently does not contain more than two persons "imbued with Western culture." Goalando sends a compact band of 23 persons under the command of a Sub-Deputy. Tipperah, Brahmanbaria, Serajgung and Nuddea have their representatives, but not quite so homogeneous. The devotion for "Western culture" is well represented at Hooghly by a body of twelve persons; nine of whom describe themselves as "teachers," one a "Librarian," and two Post Office officials. Calcutta would have been left in the lurch in this advocacy for "progress of refinement" had not some clerks in the railway offices in and about the metropolis, come to the front. Altogether there are 398 subscribers, all good and true. Of these, however, 109 worthies have not yet drunk sufficiently deep of "Western culture," to be able to sign their names in English characters, for they have resorted to Bengali letters, and 7 persons have found the Persian characters to be more convenient to write their names with. There are crosses marked against a few names; but those crosses must have, we presume, resulted from causes other than inability on the part of the subscribers to write their names. A few names appear in Bengali characters which would have done discredit to a boy of seven years of age; but they might be due to shakiness produced by a moving boat or other causes. Mukhtears and mohurirs in sub-deputy courts, and school pandits, are not, as a rule required to appear in public in turbans, and, to our knowledge, levees and durbars have not yet been honored by such persons. Noting this wicked people might suggest that they have lent their names, as they would lend many things besides, to oblige the Deputy and Sub-Deputy Hakims, a dozen or so of whom have headed the different lists of subscribers; but to say so would be malicious. Every person, whether able to write their names in English or not, or visiting Sahibs or not, has an indefeasible right to fight for the sacred cause of "Western culture." It is to be extremely regretted that under these circumstances Sir Ashley Eden should have treated the letter-writers in the way he has done. His Resolution runs:

> Orders.—Ordered that the Memorialists be informed that the Lieutenant-Governor is entirely opposed to any such innovation as that which is suggested, and that he cannot believe that the memorial represents the feelings of the generality of even the middle classes of the natives of Bengal. It is of course open to native gentlemen to adopt brimless caps or any other kind of covering for the head as a substitute for the national head-dress if they desire to do so in private life, but there can be no doubt that it is a very slovenly and unbecoming style of dress for public occasions.

This is indeed cruel! A dozen Deputies of the lower grades and half that number of Sub-Deputies not fit to represent the generality of "even the middle classes of the native of Bengal," when three sartorial gentlemen of Tooley Street were enough to represent Great Britain in the Court of St. Cloud? The resolution proceeds:

> The Memorialists are much mistaken if they imagine that in wearing brimless caps they are imitating European customs. No European of respectability would appear in public in such caps, and they cannot therefore claim as they do to associate its adoption with "Western Culture." Real culture would, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, have led the Memorialist to a very different conclusion. Still less can the cap be considered an oriental mode of dress.

It may be perfectly true that the turban belongs especially to India, also to Persia, Afghanstan and Arabia, and caps and hats to all other parts of the earth, still the conclusion drawn is one from which "the wise men of the East" should certainly be permitted to differ as it is quite opposed to their wishes. Besides, they very eruditely observe that "the history of civilization in all countries is a history of the violation of national manners and customs;" and in the interest of "refinement" they wish to "violate" all national manners and customs. To them, therefore, an appeal to such customs is thrown away.

In the next para of the resolution it is said:

> The Lieutenant-Governor has observed with regret a tendency on the part of the young men of the present day to neglect their personal appearance on public occasions and even to appear before Her Majesty's representative at levees in costumes in which a few years ago they would not have ventured to attend a reception given by a native gentleman of rank. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot agree with the Memorialists that to insist on propriety of costume on official occasions can "act as a cause of moral depression on the people," or that it will act as drawback to easy intercourse between European and Native gentlemen. On the contrary, Sir Ashley Eden believes that the intercourse was more cordial and real in the days in which more attention was paid to such matters as this.

This is attaching too much importance to externals at the sacrifice of the inner man. To officers so "deeply imbued with Western Culture," as the letter-writers what can be the use of a tidy dress? The Sage of Chelsea, in his 'Sartor Resartus' says "that by nature man is a *naked animal*, and only in certain circumstances by purpose and device masks himself in clothes." If so, why should not our reformers yearn for what is purely natural with a view ultimately to attain that "philosophical perfection" and realize that picture of the Sage in which is shown "a naked duke addressing a naked House of Lords, and naked kings wrestling with naked women?" Intercourse between European and Native gentlemen is sure to be much more easy and natural, when the stumbling block of clothes is removed from the way. The Government might have said that those who delight in bare heads in public assemblies should betake to tail-coats and chokers, but the letter-writers had forestalled it by observing that "all changes cannot be made at once, and moreover that all changes may not be equally proper or acceptable." Had the suggestion been made, we would have, on behalf of the letter-writers, at once said: "what, out and out change at once, Sir Ashley? We cannot afford to pay for it."

The last para of the resolution runs thus:

> If any change in the rules is to be made it should not, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, take the shape of further relaxation of existing customs. Indeed, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the chief change required, is that some of the native gentlemen, especially native officials, who attend levees and durbars should pay greater attention than heretofore to their costume, and should in this way imitate the European custom of showing respect by not appearing on such occasions in the ordinary clothes in which they have just left their desks or court-houses. The now prevailing laxity in this matter may possibly have some bearing on the want of cordiality in the relations between Europeans and Natives, of which such frequent complaint is made by those who remember a different state of things. Attention to costume was a form of respect in which the forefathers of the present generation were never deficient. In giving up the custom of appearing with the head covered on public occasions, native gentlemen are adopting neither the customs of the West nor of the East, and the movement is one which the Lieutenant-Governor deprecates, and which he is certainly in no way prepared to encourage.

We cannot conscientously question the truth of these observations; but at the same time we cannot help thinking that it is a pity that the writers of the letter under notice have been subjected to this lecture. They form the advanced guard of "refinement" and "Western culture," and as such have a right to claim much higher consideration. Besides, who knows that this will not lead to the expulsion of "brimless caps" from Levees, even as a crusty old Commissioner once expelled golden caps from the deck of the Rhotas at Dacca? or, more horrible still, that the Lord Mayor of Calcutta should insist upon learned Commissioners of the Municipal Corporation, abjuring their brimless caps, dismally greasy as they are? The said Lord Mayor and his European colleagues, following their national custom, leave their hats in the lobby or under the table; but precious shawl turbans, perhaps heir-looms of ages past, cannot be so treated, and some Commissioners, instead of keeping them on their heads, lumber the table with them without a moment's thought as to the offence they thereby offer their chief; and who knows but that chief might one day resent it, and relegate the turbans below the table? The idea is shocking!

4

AGRICULTURAL REFORM IN INDIA.

III.

IN our last article on this subject we showed that unless the agricultural capital of the country be largely increased there could be no agricultural reform in India, which means the introduction of the scientific system of tillage. The adoption of new and improved implements and the supply of adequate manure must cost a deal of money; and this expenditure the ryot has not at present the means of incurring. With diminished mortality and improved condition of cattle the agricultural capital of the country will, no doubt, be increased to some extent; but the general indigence and indebtedness of the Indian peasantry would, however stand in the way of agricultural reform. Men who have no resources beyond the current harvest and who are hopelessly involved in debt, cannot be expected to adopt a scientific system of tillage. It is only fair to Mr. Allan Hume to say that he fully recognises this difficulty. He writes: "Wherever we turn we find agriculturists burdened with debts running on at enormous rates of interest. In some districts, even provinces, the evil is all-absorbing—a whole population of paupers hopelessly meshed in the webs of usurers. No one probably needs be told that no farmer or cultivator hopelessly in debt, can ever do any justice to himself or his land." The truth of these remarks will be admitted by every person possessed of a grain of common sense. The "plague of indebtedness," as Mr. Allan Hume justly calls it, must be eradicated before there can be any agricultural reform in India.

How can this important result be accomplished—is a question which must interest every agricultural reformer in India, and indeed, every well-wisher of the ryot; and this question must be grappled with satisfactorily before the Government thinks of creating an Agricultural Bureau, such as has been recommended by Mr. Allan Hume. He observes: "The subject is so large and complicated, its difficulty so protean, and the remedies required, necessarily so liable to vary in relation to each of the almost innumerable combinations of circumstances under which the evil will have to be dealt with, that it is impossible to discuss it at all exhaustively in a sketch like this. Still some indication may be given of the manner in which this indebtedness has come about and of the direction in which a remedy for it should be sought. A theory is at times gravely maintained that the ryot is a thriftless, reckless fellow; that no matter what he gets, he will always spend more than his income; that it matters nothing whether the rent he has to pay is high or low; that he rather likes than otherwise having a balance *against* him at his bankers'; and that do what one will, he *will* always be in debt. Nothing can convey a more thoroughly and utterly false conception of our agriculturists as a body. That these, in common with the entire population, high and low, do, in accordance with immemorial custom, spend a great deal more upon marriages than according to *English* ideas any similarly circumstanced sane man ought or would do, may be at once admitted. Any real, vigorous, and persistent action to check this common form of extravagance, taken under sound advice, would be a real blessing to the country. But after all, this is the poor fellows's only extravagance; these are almost the only whitedays in his dull-coloured life of toil and pinching, and unless he is singularly blessed (or unblest) there are not many of them, and for the rest, a more careful frugal being is not to be found on earth. He hates debt; he hates the usurer's name; let any stroke of luck befal him, and see how soon the monstrous account against him is settled. This is not the case merely with individuals, the population of whole provinces (like Guzerat and Berar, owing to the abnormal profits from cotton during the American war) have similarly cleared themselves. Fools are scarce nowhere, but only show our ryots how to free themselves from the toils of the money-lender and to keep out of his books, and none need fear that the great mass of them will long remain plunged in their comparative misery, for misery of a kind it is. A very happy natured, contented race, as a whole, are our village husbandmen, and they have their

little amusements and festivals, and when harvests are very good pretty much all that with their simple habits, they need. The picture is not all black, or how could we or any one hold the country? But withal their lives are very hard and toilsome, and through it all, too many are pressed with debt. Good crops ease the pain a little, and the village merry-making brings a temporary forgetfulness, but the sore is always there, and except in very good seasons multitudes for months in every year cannot get sufficient food for themselves and their families. They are not starving, but they are hungry they get less than they want and than they ought to have." How can people in such a wretched condition of life adopt an improved system of tillage? To say that the Indian ryot is a thriftless, reckless fellow is to libel him. The evidence collected by the Deccan Riots' Commission has conclusively shewn that the ryot is not improvident or extravagant and that he always makes the best of his limited means and resources.

Mr. Allan Hume, we are sorry to remark, does not discuss the causes of the indebtedness of the agricultural classes in this country. If the ryot hates debt, if he hates the usurer's name, why should he always have a balance *against* him at his banker's? We should have liked to see an able and experienced revenue official like the author of *Agricultural Reform in India* answer this question. The main cause of the indebtedness of the Indian peasantry is, to our thinking, the rigid revenue system of the country. The Mahratta rulers used to exact one-half of the *actual* gross produce of the land; and although the present Government takes a smaller share of the crops, the ryot is always in debt. This lamentable state of things is directly due to the harsh mode of collecting the State demand, which finds favour with our present rulers. The English are very fond of importing Western laws and institutions into India without considering sufficiently whether those laws and institutions are suited to the conditions existing here. The very proposal to collect the land revenue in kind is enough to make an Englishman's hairs stand on end. He looks upon the system as utterly barbarous; and it is his firm conviction that a system which is not scientific must necessarily be a serious evil and a grievous misfortune. *The ryot must pay the fixed assessment in cash at the prescribed dates whether the land has yielded him any thing or not.* The inexorable British tax-gatherer knows no mercy: he must have his pound of flesh. He pays no heed to the character of agricultural seasons: he must realize the State demand regardless of the consequences of drought or blight. How can then the ryot do without borrowing? When the crops have failed, he must borrow money to pay his rent or revenue with; and as he cannot get accommodation on easy terms, he remains always in debt; if he once place himself in the hands of the village usurers confiscation measures like the Deccan Ryot's Act may be passed by your "Executive Legislature" for the relief of the agricultural classes; but these cannot go to the root of the evil. They can only give temporary relief to Paul at the expence of Peter. Unless and until the Government grapple with the great and growing evil of the indebtedness of the peasantry, there can be no such thing as agricultural reform in India. This proposition is as clear as the sun at noonday.

As Mr. Allan Hume does not discuss the causes of the indebtedness of the agricultural classes so he does not indicate any remedy for this gigantic evil. A modification of the present revenue system must of course be the first step towards rescuing the ryot from the clutches of the money-lender. But something more must be done, if agricultural reform is to be brought about. It is not enough that the ryot should be without debt. In order that he may adopt an improved system of tillage, he must have the necessary capital. Even now the ryot cannot cultivate his field without borrowing; and if he is to plough his land deeply and manure it adequately, he must have more accommodation and on much more favourable terms than he can under existing circumstances, command. This can duly be brought about by the establishment of State Agricultural Banks. We know that objections have been advanced by many high authorities against the State assuming the functions of the bunniah; but these objections cannot bear examination. The argument that the opening of State agricultural banks would involve interference with private enterprise, has no legs to stand upon. The Government in this country undertakes many things which in Europe fall within the legitimate scope of private enterprise. To prove this, we need only cite the instance of railways and irrigation works. Even such a profitable business as the cultivation of tea could not have been introduced into this country on a large scale, if the Government had not led the way. Indeed, in almost every thing useful or important, the State must be the pioneer in this country, or the thing will not be done at all. We have carefully studied this question of agricultural banks, and are of opinion that such banks can be established in India to the great benefit of the peasantry. If every application for loan were carefully scrutinized and a summary procedure for the recovery of debts from the defaulting ryots on the model of Act VII. of 1867 (B. C.) were passed, the working of agricultural banks would not be attended with any great difficulty. Such banks are in full operation in Prussia; and the prosperous condition of the Prussian peasantry is, in no small degree, due to the excellent system under which they can get small advances from the State on easy terms. Those who know the Indian ryot cannot question his honesty. He always discharges his obligations punctually, whenever he *can* do so. We need only refer to the famine loans of 1874 to prove this. The ryots to whom grain advances were made during the late Bengal famine did not ask for any indulgence beyond the grant of a little time. They made no attempt to ignore their liabilities. On the contrary, they looked upon these debts as sacred obligations and discharged them to the best of their ability. An experienced indigo-planter thus spoke to Mr. Hume of the honesty of Native cultivators:—"Deal with them wisely and fairly, and there is no difficulty. I give out large advances every year. I never had a suit in *any* court with any ryot and I have never lost money worth speaking of. Misfortunes will happen and you may have to wait and to do what sometimes looks like throwing good money after bad, but give them *time* and they will pay, if they feel you have always been on the square with them." This must be the opinion of unbiassed persons who have had dealings with our cultivators. "In estates under the court of Wards, not leased out but managed direct by revenue officials," writes Mr. Allan Hume, "large sums are often given out as advances, and again recovered to the uttermost farthing or when some loss is sustained by men dying or others whose cattle have died and whose crops have failed absconding this under good management is small." Again: "Only death prevents ninety-nine hundreths of our rural population paying a debt fairly incurred, on which a reasonable rate of interest was charged, and which they understood the authorities required them to pay and in the event of death, in nine cases out of ten, the heirs and representatives of the deceased who take up his land, would be quite as ready to take up the debt as if it were their own . . ." Such being the case, we do not see any reason why the Government should not try the experiment of agricultural banks on a limited scale. The experiment might, in our opinion, be tried with great advantage in Behar, where the depressed condition of the agricultural classes has been causing grave anxiety to Government. It should be remembered that Sir John Strachey, while Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Provinces, indicated this bank system as a means of bettering the condition of the ryots of those provinces, most of whom are in debt to the money-lender. We have no hesitation in saying that the extension of permanent settlement and the opening of State agricultural banks are necessary preliminaries to any real improvement of agriculture and the condition of the cultivators in this country.

IRRIGATION WORKS IN RAJPUTANA.

THE unremunerative character of the bulk of the expenditure on extraordinary public works in this country has been completely demonstrated in the Report of Lord George Hamilton's committee on Indian Public Works, which we noticed in a recent issue. The stubborn facts collected by the Committee have irresistibly led them to the conclusion that a large part of the outlay on the works classified as "reproductive," does not yield even a small fraction of the interest, which has to be paid on the capital borrowed for their construction. It has been established beyond the shadow of a doubt that in the case of many irrigation works, the return yielded, so far from paying the interest on the capital outlay, does not even suffice to meet their working expenses. Some works of irrigation have certainly proved remunerative; but then, as Mr. Fawcett points out in a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century*, "with the single exception of the works in Scinde, the schemes from which large profits are secured are either old native works, like the Eastern and Western Jumna Canals, and the Cauvery anicut, which have been restored by British agency or works which have been constructed under exceptionally favourable conditions, such as the Godavery and Kristnah." Of the success of the Godavery and Kristnah works Sir Arthur Cotton may well be proud. The case, however, is an exceptional, and not a typical, one. The capital laid out by the British Government in restoring the Eastern and Western Jumna Canals does not represent anything like their real cost—a fact which is generally ignored or overlooked in determining the financial results of irrigation works in India.

We have now before us the Revenue Report on Irrigation Works on Rajputana for the years 1874-75 to 1876-77, inclusive. As the financial statements of these works have been laid before the public for the first time, it is desirable that they should be carefully examined. The importance of constructing irrigation works in the arid regions of Rajputana cannot be over-estimated. The Government of India, in reviewing the Reports under notice, observes:—"The arrangements for storing water in Ajmir and Mhairwara are of vital importance to the country; there is little or no water in the rivers except in the rainy season, and no permanent supply in the wells; all is dependent on the rainfall, which is precarious and generally small in quantity, averaging from 18 to 22 inches in the year, and varying from 5½ to 43½ inches in exceptional seasons. In the adjacent State of Jodhpore the annual rainfall averages between 4 and 5 inches only. In the Ajmir District, where the nullahs are sandy, a sufficient amount of water is absorbed during the rains to supply wells within a short distance from the stream on either bank; beyond this limit, unirrigated lands extend to the foot of the hills on either side. In Mhairwara, where the beds of the drainage out-falls are rocky and the declivity is great, the rainfall, if unarrested, flows rapidly and benefits the country but little, as the soil is shallow and not retentive of moisture. Hence the necessity for retention of the rainfall by artificial means is very great." This necessity was fully recognised by the Native rulers of Ajmir and Mhairwara. The construction of embankments in those districts for the purpose of retaining water dates from the eleventh century. When the British portion of Rajputana, Ajmir and Mhairwara, came under English rule in 1818, it was found that the old embankments had fallen into disrepair or been obliterated altogether. These have been restored under British rule. The number of tanks registered up to the close of the period dealt with in the Report under notice is 621, of which 458 tanks were constructed before the charge of the irrigation works was made over to the Public Works Department in 1869-70, mainly through the exertions and influence of Colonel Dixon, 159 tanks have been constructed by the villagers themselves, and 4 new tanks only have been constructed since 1869-70, through the agency of the Public Works Department. Therefore new tanks are calculated to irrigate 6,972 acres. The old tanks subject to Government assessment of revenue were 278 at the last settlement; while the number of tanks not assessed was 180.

The revenue accounts of the irrigation works in Rajputana commence from the year 1869-70

when the works first came under the control of the Public Works Department. The capital expenditure on the works previous to that year, is put down at Rs. 6,17,563; and the aggregate outlay at the close of the period under review is returned at Rs. 12,86,157. No water-rates are levied on irrigation from the old tanks, the works being credited with a share of the land revenue. But water-rates are charged on the four new works constructed through the agency of the Public Works Department. At the revision of the land revenue settlement which took place in 1873-74 the area of irrigation from the Government tanks was registered at 17,227 acres and from the village tanks at 1,107 acres. The total land revenue of Ajmir-Mhairwara by the last settlement amounts to Rs. 2,61,557 exclusive of cesses, of which Rs. 53,144 was allotted as the share due to the Government tanks, and Rs. 2,288 was on account of village tanks. In addition to this, the tanks are credited with a portion of the assessment on lands irrigated by wells only; the water share being taken at half the assessment on half the number of assessed wells in the district. This item yields Rs. 20,609. It will thus be seen that the revenue from irrigation works in Rajputana is mainly "indirect" revenue, the direct returns, that is to say, the returns from water-rates, properly so-called, being comparatively trifling. Again, the Public Works Department takes credit for Rs. 2,288 as share due to village tanks; but as no Government funds are expended on these village tanks, the item in question cannot be fairly claimed by the Department. The following table exhibits the general financial result of the irrigation works in Rajputana for the five years up to and including 1873-74 :—

Year.	Capital outlay at end of year.	Working expenses.	Gross Revenue, direct & indirect.	Net revenue.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1869-70 ...	630817	37045	73753	36708
1870-71 ...	634034	19996	101336	81340
1871-72 ...	653957	64826	85741	20915
1872-73 ...	685341	60879	85974	25095
1873-74 ...	691238	81769	84776	3007
Total ...	.....	264515	431580	167065
Yearly average...		52903	86316	33413

These figures would make out that the irrigation works in Rajputana yielded an average annual profit of 4·83 per centum on the capital outlay at the close of the period mentioned above. But it must be borne in mind that the capital outlay on which profit has been calculated does not represent the actual cost of the works. The works are, with three exceptions, old native works which have been restored or repaired since Ajmir and Mhairwara came under British rule in 1818. The tanks constructed through the exertions of Colonel Dixon, who held charge of the districts for many years, and whose influence with the people was supreme, were made with the greatest possible economy such as can never be expected from the Public Works Department. If these tanks had been constructed by professional engineers their cost we have no hesitation in saying would have been several times the sum actually spent. The Government of India would have us believe that the capital on which profits have been calculated, represents fairly the expenditure in money on the construction of the works. But it is in the same breath admitted that labour and material for the tanks constructed were to a considerable extent supplied *gratis*, and that the cost of the works, if constructed now, would probably be four, or even five times as great. The so-called "indirect" revenue from irrigation works, as we have often pointed out in these columns, is misleading. The principles on which "indirect" revenue is assessed are utterly unsound. Why a portion of the assessment on lands irrigated *by wells only* should be credited to tanks or canals, is more than we can comprehend. But it is only in this way that the Public Works Department can make out irrigation works to be remunerative. We observe that since the revision of the land revenue settlement in Ajmir-Mhairwara in 1873-74 the average annual profit up to 1876-77 has been only 3.3 per centum on the capital debit.

So much for the financial results of the irrigation works in Rajputana, which have been restored or repaired under British Government. As regards the new tanks which have been constructed through the agency of the Public Works Department, and which came into operation during the last three years dealt with in the report under notice, we see that the works did not even pay their working expenses. During the three years from 1874-75 to 1876-77 both inclusive every one of the new works failed to earn enough to meet its expenses. The Government of India remarks: "Although the apparent and direct financial results of the irrigation works in Rajputana as exhibited in these reports are very poor, the testimony of all acquainted with the localities is that without the tanks the country could not be permanently inhabited. The committee of 1874 recorded its opinion that 'the tanks have reclaimed Mhairwara from being a wild jungle through which no man could pass in safety. But for the tanks, the greater part of the population of the district would be a migratory one, cultivating in years of good rains and emigrating to Oodeypore and Malwa in years of scarcity.'" We may believe all this; but it is evident that the irrigation works in Rajputana have not proved reproductive public works, which they were intended to be. Works which cannot reasonably be expected to pay should be constructed out of the ordinary revenues, and not with borrowed money. Well might the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Indian Public Works come to the broad conclusion, that though the aggregate expenditure of 15½ millions of pounds of sterling on irrigation works yields a net profit of £131,924 the whole of this profit is derived from old restored native works, and those which have been constructed in Sind and in the deltas of the Madras rivers, and that with regard to works which have not proved remunerative, and on which a capital of 10¼ millions has been expended, the return yielded in 1875-76, the latest for which official figures had been placed before the Committee, fell, short by nearly half a million sterling of the amount required to meet their working expenses and the interest on their capital outlay.

MYSORE.

THE manifest tendency of English education, railway and telegraphic communications, and the uniformity of law and administration under the auspices of the British Government, is the unification of India in thought and feeling. English education fosters the same thoughts, feelings and aspirations in natives of all parts of the country. Railways and telegraphs offer facilities to an interchange of their mutual thoughts and feelings, while the uniformity of law and administration tends to engender in them a common sentiment and a common motive for action. Thus the people of India throughout the country are bound by the same ties of sympathy and action. This healthy sign is observable not only among educated natives but also among the Native Princes. These have risen above their old barbaric pride, mutual jealousy, and antipathy, and now mix with each other with a freedom, brotherly feeling, and cordiality, which had never before been seen. Who for one had dreamt that the Sindia and the Holkar would forget their family dissensions and jealousies and meet as brothers and friends or that the Rajput Chiefs would forget their traditional exclusive feelings and derive pleasure in each other's company. This unification of India in thought and feeling is a glorious consummation brought about under the auspices of British rule. But whilst this healthy process is going on, we are sorry to note that under some sinister influence an attempt is being made to sow seeds of dissension and disunion among the educated natives of the country in respect of the dispensation of patronage. Thus in Bombay the Maharathas, the Gujratis and the Parsis are being divided in feeling, one section crying against the Maharathas, another against the Guzrathis, and the third against the Parsis in their employment in the public service. In the same manner in the North-Western Provinces the cry is now against the Bengali, now against the resident Hindu, now against the Mahomedan. In Behar the cry against the Bengali has become somewhat bitter. All this is much to be regretted. No good will come out of this rivalry and jealousy. Of course, those who are jealous of Native advancement, find a pleasure in promoting this dissension; they feel that the unification of India in thought and feeling would be disastrous to their interests, and so they seek to keep the loaves and fishes of office in their hands by setting one class of natives against another. Why should not our countrymen see this dirty work in its true light. They ought to remember that the country is one, the people are one, the sovereign is one, and that there ought to be one feeling among the Indians in respect of all matters, which affect their common welfare. Monopoly of office is not the be-all and end-all of our existence; let merit have its reward irrespective of person and parentage, let only our legitimate claims as a nation to serve our own country be recognized.

Nowhere perhaps is the parochial feeling more predominant than in Mysore. There the Native community is divided into two sections, viz., Native Mysorians and Madrasis. The greatest jealousy and antipathy seem to prevail between the two. This is much to be regretted, for such hostile feelings among the people themselves cannot but distract the ruling authorities. We wish we could bring about a reconciliation between them. It has been repeatedly asserted that in Mysore foreigners have been preferred, and have been largely employed to the detriment of the children of the soil, who have been ousted to make room for the stranger. But how do facts stand? We give below a statement shewing the number of offices in Mysore held by different classes of persons :

	Native—Rev. Comrs., Dist. Judges and Deputy Comrs.	Assistant Commissioners.	Munsiffs.	Amildars.
LOCAL.				
Iyengars ...	2	7	6	18
All other classes of Brahmins ...	0	5	5	26
Mahomedans ...	1	4	0	10
Sudras ...	0	3	5	11
Eurasians ...	1	1	3	1
FROM OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE.				
Brahmins ...	2	5	3	1
Sudras ...	1	1	0	2
Eurasians ...	0	1	0	0
	7	27	22	69

The above statement shows that in the whole province, in the higher appointments (and it is even more remarkable in the lower) outsiders hold, altogether, only 16 out of 125 posts or about one-eighth. It is asserted that the local Iyengars are neglected. Is this true? These men are not only of one caste, but may be said to be one family, as they are related or connected by blood or marriage very generally. Let us see how they stand. The statement shews that they hold 33 out of the 125 higher posts or more than double all the outsiders of all castes put together, and nearly one-fourth of the whole. Moreover, we are informed that these outsiders are not men who have been recently introduced, (as a fact, we are told, not a single man has in the recent organization been brought in from outside,) but are men who have from time to time in the past been procured from outside, and who have done good work for years in the Province. Every care should certainly be taken to select the best men from within the Province for responsible employment, due regard being had to character as well as ability, and we are glad to learn that this has been done. Mr. Gordon has been anxious to secure the efficiency of the service, and he has justly subordinated all other considerations to this. Mysore is about to enter upon a new epoch; the Native Raj is about to be restored, and all classes of the native populations ought to combine and co-operate for the success of the new *regime*. We hope all minor differences will be sunk for the sake of the great end in view. Mr. Gordon has a difficult task to perform. He has to "co-ordinate" English ideas with Indian forms and institutions, and in doing so he cannot please all parties. We hope the leading men of Mysore will rise above local and personal prejudices, should any exist, and work together for the common weal of the state.

THE TRADES' DINNER.

THE last annual Dinner of the Trades' Association was as usual a great success. The conduct of the Chairman, Mr. Clifford Brookes, was truly admirable. He has a fine voice, pleasant manner, and a good fund of words, and also possesses the art of mouthing them well. No wonder that he carried his audience with him whenever he spoke on the last occasion. A public dinner gives an opportunity to public men to unbosom themselves, and although our public men are not all talkative, those who were called upon to speak at the last Trades' Dinner could not altogether resist the temptation of speaking out. The Lieutenant Governor set the example. He was cleverly drawn out by Mr. J. B. Knight, who in a neat and well-arranged speech proposed His Honor's health. His Honor repeated he had not to unfold any new policy nor to give "any exciting or sensational history of the past or programme of the coming year." He said that "the year had passed quietly away without any violent changes of policy or system, while it had at the same time been one of consolidation and steady progress." He truly remarked that "the people are the most happy under the government of which the least is heard." He does not like fuss or noise; he prefers to work quietly and steadily, and he therefore avoids the sensational. This is a great quality in a ruler of men. He justly said that the rulers and the ruled "have an entire community of interest, and if ever any temporary friction arises, it always has been, and I hope it always will be, adjusted by temperate representation on one side, and sympathetic consideration on the other." Nothing could have been in better spirit than this kindly acknowledgement of the potency of public opinion. His Honor laid due stress upon the opening up of the country for the development of its resources. He said: "I look upon the opening out of Bengal, which has, from want of money, been so long neglected in this respect, as the one great means which the Government has at its disposal for really improving the condition of the people, and fostering a great trade; but I cannot agree that Mr. Knight is right in thinking, that the want of progress is in any degree attributable to a tendency on the part of the Government of India to appropriate to itself money which belongs to the province." Under the new decentralization system he said the Bengal treasury was prosperous. "Never at any time," His Honor remarked, "has the financial position of Bengal been so good as it is now: every branch of revenue has increased beyond all expectation, and I have ample means now in hand to enable me to offer a substantial guarantee for the interest on capital, enough to cover Bengal with a net-work of railways." But he complained that his power of spending his money on such useful objects was clogged. He said, "unfortunately, I am not in a position to spend a penny on new productive works. And the construction of railways, though they have been shown by experience to be profitable and successful in Bengal, both directly and indirectly, is practically at a stand-still; and we are making no greater progress to-day in opening out the country by railways and canals, than we were twenty years ago, though much is being done in the way of making roads. I cannot pretend to say who is responsible for this—it is certainly not the Local Government or the Government of India." This is a reasonable complaint. The veto upon expenditure on useful public works has come from England; we admit that there was necessity for putting a check upon wicked waste of money upon so-called public works, but there ought to be discrimination in the matter. Public money should not certainly be wasted, but it ought to be expended upon works, which are really productive. The Councils were proposed by Mr. MacAlpin in a good speech, and the replies were worthy of the speakers who responded to the toast. Sir Alexander Arbuthnot ably represented the Governor General's Council. He admitted that the Council was not "a popular body," we wish he had pointed out the necessity of making it popular. He deprecated English agitation of Indian questions. He said:

> During the past year, India and Indian subjects have obtained more than the usual amount of attention from Parliament and the English Press; and I wish I could say they have been treated with that absence of party spirit which used to characterize the discussions of past years. The administration of this great dependency is a task of no light magnitude involving, as it does, the government of many peoples aliens from their rulers in race, in language, in habits, and in religion. It is encompassed by many difficulties and by many dangers—difficulties and dangers which do not diminish in degree, however much they may vary in character as time goes on. Of the many difficulties and dangers I know of, there are few which are more serious than the growing tendency of public men at Home to deal with Indian affairs—not with reference to the interests of this contry, but with reference to the exigencies—very often, it appears to me, the imaginary exigencies—of English party politics. (Applause) This is a tendency from which we in India are happily, to a great extent, free; and this absence of party spirit, combined as it is with the habit of dealing with public questions upon their merits, and exclusively in the interests of the country in which our lot is cast furnishes to my mind an important justification of the present constitution of the Government of India.

We do not quite go with Sir Alexander on this point. There may be party motives underlying the agitation of Indian questions in England, but if the English public cannot be moved without a party cry, we should not resent it. India ought to be before the British public, and it does not matter how this end is brought about. Life must be preferred before stagnation—activity before inaction. Indeed, we ought to feel grateful to the leaders of the great parties of England for rousing the British nation to the real position of affairs in India. It would seem from what fell from Sir Alexander Arbuthnot that some change is contemplated in the constitution of the Governor General's Council. He said:

> The members of this Council are occasionally charged with being unduly obsequious, and again with being unduly obstructive; but when we look over the long roll of men many of them very able and distinguished, who have held, seats in this Council since its establishment in the year 1784, and when we remember that that roll contains the names of Adams, Metcalfe, Prinsep, Lowe, Grant, Durand, A. Gray, and Norman, I believe it will appear to reflecting minds that that institution, on the whole, serves an useful purpose, and that any material alteration in its constitution is not to be desired. When I think over the duties and difficulties of the office, the path of a member of a Council is not always a path of roses, and I am reminded of a sentence which was written many years ago by a retired Governor-General, regarding one of the ablest and most popular men who ever sat in the Council Chamber, Metcalfe, Lord William Bentinck, while he yet held his seat in the Government of India, in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister of the day, describes him as a man who never cavilled about a trifle, and never yielded upon a point of importance, I believe that in proportion as a member of Council corresponds to this description, in that proportion his services many be deemed to have been useful to the State.

Until we know what the changes contemplated in the Governor General's Council are we cannot say whether they will be for good or evil. We hope it will not be a move backwards. If there is to be a change it ought to be in the right direction. Mr. Mackenzie fully sustained his reputation as a speaker. He made the report of the Indian Law Commission the butt of his powerful wit, his deep and cutting sarcasms, and his scholarly hits. It was really refreshing to see an official throw off his usual reserve and enter the arena of discussion with a courage, manliness and independence, which would do honor to any independent leader of society. The Bench and the Bar and the Legal Profession were proposed by Mr. Longley, and Sir Richard Garth and Mr. J. D. Bell responded to the toast. Sir Richard is always genial, and his hearty sentences entirely carried his audience. In a jokative way he gave well to the India Office authorities for putting a spoke into the wheel of judicial reform in Bengal. Sir Richard protested against the notion of putting the Judges of the High Court into the Legislative Council. What he said on the subject was manly and honorable. He remarked:

> I cannot help thinking that there are strong reasons why no Judge of the High Court should be a member of a Legislative assembly. In the first place, I consider that one of the first qualities of a judge is independence. (Hear, hear,) I believe that no man, no Judge could become more independent by ever becoming a member of the Legislature. In the second place, I beg to say, with all due respect for the legislative assemblies, that the introduction of Judges into legislative councils, especially if they were to assert their independence, would not be productive of concord. In the next place, I confess I entertain a very grave doubt whether it is the wisest policy to entrust the making of laws to the persons who are to administer and criticise them; and lastly, and this is a matter rather personal to myself, I cannot help thinking that the Chief Justice has quite enough work to do in his own court besides attending to the concerns of the Legislature. He has quite enough to do in his own Courts in doing business there, and in grumbling and growling with people when he does not quite get his own way.

We confess we were one of those who regretted the absence of the judges of the High Court from the Legislative Council for the simple reason that the Law Member had everything in his own way. But as he has been lately counterbalanced by the appointment of the Advocate General and the Standing Counsel, our objection has been removed, and we therefore entirely agree with Sir Richard Garth in the arguments he advanced against the impolicy of giving the judges a quasi-political character by associating them with the legislative assembly. We always feel a pleasure in hearing Mr. Bell. He has a happy knack of infusing his own spirit into his audience. On the last occasion he came out in his best style. We hope he is now satisfied about his Asia Minor discovery. We do not, however, quite agree with him that the leaders of the bar do their duty by keeping themselves aloof from public movements. It is true that the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association do take care of public interests, but the speaking power is monopolized by the bar, and its absence from our public meetings is greatly felt. Possibly the bar do not join, because it does not now command the gift of the gab which distinguished its old leaders. The Turtons, the Clarkes, the Dickenses, and the Mortons have unhappily not worthy successors in the present generation, but what man has done man may do. Surely under the leadership of Mr. Bell we may yet secure a good crop of stunning orators from the bar. Mr. Chapman responded to the toast of the Civil Services in a clever and generous speech. We desire to express our thanks to Mr. Womack for the kind words in which he spoke of the Press, both European and Native. In conformity with our usual custom we reproduce in another column the toast of the Press. We have not space for a notice of other speeches, but we cannot conclude without calling attention to the excellent speech which Mr. Brookes delivered in proposing "Our Guests." In that speech he paid well-turned compliments to several distinguished gentlemen present at the Dinner. He thus spoke of our distinguished countryman, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra:

> Amongst the few native gentlemen present, I desire to mention the name of Doctor Rajendra Lala Mittra, as this the is first time that the learned doctor has been the guest of the Association. I am sure, Gentlemen, you are proud to be in a position to entertain as your guest a native of India, whose learning and scholastic acquirements are cosmopolitan, and whose name is as well-known in European scientific circles as in Indian ones.

Mr. Justice Louis Jackson replied to the toast of the "Guests" in an excellent and feeling speech. There were some passages in his reply which touched the inmost chord of one's heart.

Lastly, the Calcutta Corporation came out with flying colors at this grand socio-political demonstration. We were exceedingly glad to notice a favorable change in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor regarding the Municipality. His Honor said:

> I should regret to see any attempt at greater interference by the Imperial Government with the affairs of the town, which are now in the hands of the Municipality. It is gratifying to me to be able to notice the very marked improvement which has taken place during the year in the manner in which the Municipal Commissioners have administered their affairs. I see every reason to hope that the era of talk has now given place to the era of action.

If the Municipality has passed from the region of talk into the region of action we hope His Honor will kindly remember that a certain character, we will not name him, has disappeared from the scene of operations. Mr. Brookes followed up His Honor and said:

> Gentlemen, I would trespass on your patience so far as to mention the Calcutta municipality, which is represented here by three of its leading officials. It is but right on a public occasion like this, that the improvement in its working and financial prospects during the year that is past should be brought to notice, even though a bare allusion can only be made. His Honor has alluded to this improvement, which shows that in his opinion the Municipality has favorably progressed; but I with permission, will give a few figures. During the past year the Municipality has paid off 3 lakhs of rupees of Funded Debt. It has discharged liabilities accruing from former years to the extent of 4¾ lakhs. It has got rid of a *net* deficit of 1½ lakhs. It has paid the current expenses of the year, including some arrears, too, and finished the year with a surplus of more than half a lakh of rupees. The result of which is that the rate payers benefit this year by a reduction of 2¼ per cent. on the rates all round. I am sure, Gentlemen, you will consider this eminently satisfactory. The credit of this reform is due principally to Mr Souttar, and to the few native gentlemen who are prominent amongst the commissioners, and foremost of whom is our good friend, Rai Kristodas Pal.

We sincerely and earnestly hope that the Municipality will endeavour to preserve the good name, which it has at last succeeded in acquiring.

by following good sense, moderation, and enlightened liberality.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE GIVE a prominent insertion to the following earnest appeal on behalf of the famine-stricken people of Ireland :—

SIR,—I take the liberty of appealing through your columns to the Indian public for subscription in aid of relief measures in Ireland. It is now some time since the Lord Mayor of Dublin telegraphed an urgent request for assistance. There seems to be no inclination amongst Europeans in Calcutta to answer this appeal. It is, therefore, the more necessary to address oneself to the well-known benevolence of Hindu and Musalman Charity. You will have observed that even in England the attempt to raise a relief-fund by the Duchess of Marlborough is reported to be the reverse of a success.

An admirable example has been set in the United States where all the members of the House Congress have subscribed five dollars each, the subscription paper headed by the speaker declaring—

"We do this in no political spirit, but solely to aid the people in actual distress in their country, whose energy, undaunted pluck, and brain have contributed so much to the advancement and history of our own."

It is strange that another house of representatives should have allowed itself to be anticipated in this manner.

As to the distress I can vouch for its severity, particularly in the West of Ireland, with which portion of the Kingdom I am best acquainted. I hope the picture—unworthy of all civilization—of a famine-stricken peasantry threatened with the certain ruin of eviction for the rents they cannot pay and even now hunted down by bailiffs with "Sheaves" or bundles of ejectment notices in their hands will rouse the humane pity of the landlords of Bengal.

No better channel for relief can be found than the present Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr. Dwyer Gray, M. P. for Tipperary, a firm and able friend of the Native peoples of India.

I beg to enclose a cheque for fifty rupees. In conclusion I would seek to warn your readers against any attempt by the English press to minimize the calamity.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. O'Donnell.

Burdwan, 5th February 1880.

This appeal comes from a son of Erin, who has identified himself with the people of India by engaging himself in its service, and whose talented and large-hearted brother is always ready to lend his tongue to the dumb millions of this country in the great national congress of the United Kingdom. We have little to add to this appeal. The stream of British benevolence in aid of the famishing millions of India two years ago poured forth with such fullness and rapidity that we cannot believe there is a single Indian, who has a heart to feel and any thing to spare, will refuse to give his mite for the relief of the starving people of Ireland. In Bombay the Governor has appropriately taken the lead, and in Bengal Sir Ashley Eden ought to do the same. As the head of the local Government he is also the head of the local community, and if His Honor takes the initiative, we make no doubt that the rest of the community, both European and Native, will gladly follow him.

We shall be glad to receive subscriptions till a Committee is regularly constituted. We have received Mr. O'Donnell's remittance of Rs. 50.

WE UNDERSTAND that Mr. W. M. Souttar Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, takes furlough for seven months from the 20th proximo, and that Mr. H. Beverley has been offered and has accepted the officiating Chairmanship. Mr. Souttar has worked hard and deserves rest, and we sincerely hope that he will return with his health thoroughly re-established. Mr. Beverley is not new to Calcutta. Calcutta knows him and he knows Calcutta ; this is a great advantage in one, who is called upon to fill the high position of Lord Mayor of the city. Mr. Beverley is able, industrious, sympathizing, and conciliatory, and we make no doubt that he will follow the lines on which Mr. Souttar has proceeded, by doing which the latter has achieved such signal success.

AFTER three months' cogitation the Government of India has at last appointed Mr. H. J. Reynolds an additional member of the Governor General's Legislative Council. It would be interesting, if some one could dive into the deep recesses of its mind and discover the reason of this extraordinary delay. At first the Law Member we believe was not disposed to have a Bengal Civilian in Council, but the claims of Bengal were too strong to be overlooked altogether. Then came the question of matching the Bengal official with some non-official, but there was then the dread of strengthening the non-official element. It was feared that the Bengal clique, as it is called, was already too powerful, and so the Government of India has gone to the land of the five rivers and selected the Raja of Nabha to match Mr. Reynolds. We congratulate Mr. Reynolds on the partner he has been provided with. We believe Mr. Reynolds retains the Bengal Secretaryship in addition to his legislative duties.

THE PIONEER is to have its own way, and the Press Commissioner is to go ! This is the latest rumour, which has reached us. The Press Commissioner, it is notorious, was a thorn on the side of the Allahabad journalist, and Sir John Strachey is obliging enough to pluck it out. We have from the beginning supported Lord Lytton's idea of a Press Bureau, because we have always been of opinion that if it were honestly carried out, it would prove a tower of strength to Government. That the original idea has not been carried out is not the fault of Mr. Lethbridge or Mr. Buckland. They have had a difficult task to perform, and considering the many drawbacks which have hampered their operations they have certainly done well. It is a pity that the office is to be abolished on the plea of economy, for after all the saving will not amount to more than Rs. 5000 per mensem, and what is this paltry sum but a drop in the ocean. We should be exceedingly surprised if Lord Lytton should be a consenting party to this measure. We would have been glad if steps had been taken to make the office really efficient and beneficent. May we venture to express a hope that Lord Lytton will stay the ruthless hand of abolition, and order steps to be taken which would make the Press Commissioner a true interpreter between the governors and the governed.

IT IS a novel feature in the history of Calcutta's relations with the country at large that native chiefs and noblemen residing at a distance come to pay homage to the capital by giving special entertainments to its denizens. The first example of this kind was set by the late Maharaja of Putiala ; lately it was followed by the Maharaja of Hutwa, and last though not the least has come the Maharaja of Durbhanga, the Premier Zemindar of the three Provinces of Bengal. This nobleman, as our readers are aware, has lately come to age and to his princely fortune, and many were the gaieties held in Bankipore and on his estate in commemoration of that auspicious event. He is a young man of much intelligence, very pleasant manners, frank, bold, and generous. On last Thursday night the Maharaja gave a ball at the Town Hall for the entertainment of their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Lytton, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and the *elite* of the European community of the capital. He also invited a few of the leading native gentlemen of the town. Although coming after the Hutwa ball the Durbhanga ball was decidedly a splendid success. The Town Hall was most tastefully decorated; there were originality, taste and splendour in the decorations. The electric light in the dining hall had great effect, and the drawing-room and the *dais* for the Viceroy were magnificient. The arbour or maze at the west end of the hall, composed of big plants and leaves, here and there lighted with Chinese lanterns, was a charming novelty and formed a snug corner for lovers' whispers. We dare say the idea will be repeated on other occasions of a similar kind. According to veterans in this line the Durbhanga ball was one of the most splendid they had witnessed. The Maharaja we are told made purchases to the extent of some seventy thousand rupees for this occasion. We wish health, long life and happiness to the Maharaja !

HINDU society is scandalized by the recent conduct of Mr. Grant, Civil and Sessions Judge of Hooghly, who in a criminal trial ordered the personal attendance of a purdanashin Hindu lady, as a witness, and whilst she was giving evidence caused her veil to be drawn aside by a *chaprasi*. We could scarcely believe that an elderly gentleman like Mr. Grant, son of no less a personage than Sir John Peter Grant, Bengal's idol, could be guilty of such an outrage, but the story has come to us from different quarters, and until it is officially contradicted, we are constrained to accept it. The law exempts the personal attendance in court of Hindu ladies, who according to the customs of the country do not appear in public, but in criminal trials it cannot always be dispensed with, and in such cases the practice has been to allow such ladies to give evidence from the palanquin, being duly identified in the first instance. This practice is followed in the High Court and Police Court in Calcutta.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the receipt of a copy of Messrs. Thacker Spink and Co.'s Directory for 1880. There are some marked improvements in the present edition. Thus : The Custom Tariff is now more complete, each heading required in official trade returns being given. The list of miscellaneous Joint Stock Companies has been incorporated with the list of Merchants and Agents. The list of Tea Companies has been transferred to the section especially devoted to the Tea Industry. The list of Brokers and Insurance Companies has been relegated to the classified list of Professions. In the Conveyance Directory an attempt has been made to give the public an idea of the way to reach out-of-the-way stations. A short Army List has been added of all the troops of the Bengal, Madras, and Bombay establishments serving under the Government of India. By typographical arrangements the matter has been considerably compressed and the book has been made handy.

THE sunshine of merriment and festivities, which have followed the wedding of the son of Dr. Shourindra Mohun Tagore and nephew of the Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur has been darkened by one sad event. In celebration of the nuptials the Maharaja had resolved to give alms to the poor, and the charity was designed on a munificent scale—a piece of cloth, a four-anna bit, a vessel-full of *chira* and *murki* and sweet-meats, making more than a rupee in value per head. A large crowd of beggars had collected, and they were accommodated on the spacious grounds of his Baitakhana residence and in a neighbouring house ; the two places were by no means overcrowded, for not only was there sufficient room left in the Baitakhana grounds but a neighbouring house was engaged purposely to prevent overcrowding. He took the assistance of the Police in the distribution of the alms, who mustered strong to preserve order. The distribution commenced at both gates of the Baitakhana house. But as the fates would have it, immediately after the distribution had commenced there was such a tremendous rush at one of the gates that neither the Maharaja's men nor the Police could restrain it. One old woman of eighty, one old man of sixty, and a boy of twelve fell upon the ground and were trampled to death. Mr. Younan, the Police Superintendent, himself had a narrow escape. There were also two births in the crowd ; the women were duly taken care of, and escorted home in palkis. On the occurrence of the accident the distribution was stopped, and as the Police would not like to take the responsibility of a second attempt, the Maharaja has given up the idea. But he has appropriately made over to the District Charitable Society what he had intended for the poor. He has placed at the disposal of Mr. Lambert, Honorary Secretary to the District Charitable Society, 5000 pieces of cloth for immediate distribution to native paupers of all denominations, and deposited with the Society Rs. 8000 as a fund in commemoration of the wedding, the interest accruing on which should be applied to the purchase of blankets and chudders for distribution among native paupers on each anniversary of the marriage. None regrets this sad accident more than the Maharaja and his good brother ; they and the Police had taken every reasonable precaution, but accidents will occur notwithstanding best regulated arrangements. We are sorry that some of the penny-a-liners have given exaggerated accounts of the accident. One of them goes to the length of saying that the Maharaja had collected the crowd in his court-yard, and threw small coins among them, inviting a scramble and trampling-down, as if the whole affair was a *tamasha*. Need

we say that this is absolutely untrue. The accident is sad enough, for which all right-minded men sympathize with the Maharaja; and penny-a-liners will do well not to add false colours to it, which are simply disgusting.

THERE has been a passage at arms between the Calcutta Missionary Conference and the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and we must do Mr. Croft the justice to say that he has come out the best. The Conference practically admit the charges preferred by the Director. They do not deny that some of the zenana teachers do stand in need of interpreters in instructing their pupils; they regret that "so many of the native Christian teachers are but poorly qualified, and that some cases of serious misconduct have occurred;" they are "sensible of the too rapid extension of their work;" they "frankly" acknowledge the "very meagre character of instruction given to the bulk of the zenana pupils," and "regret that they have not been able to attain to greater efficiency." When they admit all these facts, they are strangely inconsistent in censuring Mrs. Monmohini Wheeler, who has been chiefly instrumental in bringing them to light. She has apparently done her work with courage and in right spirit. Mr. Croft has answered the Conference with moderation but with great effect.

WE ARE requested to announce that the sixteenth annual *conversazione* of the Mahomedan Literary Society will take place at the Town Hall on the evening of the 12th instant. As His Excellency the Viceroy and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor are expected to honor the occasion with their august presence, we hope our countrymen will bear in mind the recent Pugri Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor.

TELEGRAMS.

(From the Press Commissioner).

Calcutta February 1.—From Kabul there has been nothing of importance during the last few days. Line of communication quiet since defeat of Mohmands. Telegraph unmolested. Leaders at Ghazni do their best to keep up excitement and spread constant reports of intended attack on our position but there is no considerable collection of the enemy nearer than Ghazni. Snow and rain at Kabul for the last two days. Health of troops improving From Turkistan news has come from the Governor deputed there that Ghulam Haidar's men, who had occupied Saighan fort had surrendered to Naib Muhammad Rahim Khan, who went on to Kalmund on the 27th. The Governor was going to Saighan on the 29th, and was hopeful of success and considered Turkistan settled. Sultan Murad Khan, the powerful Chief of Kunduz has offered assistance with a large force. From Kohistan reports are satisfactory. Many of the leading Maliks are coming in to the Governor. The report of Muhammad Hassan Khan's arrival at Charkh in Logar with three guns and two infantry regiments is confirmed. He is demanding revenue which the people refuse. General Bright's expedition into Lughman is progressing satisfactorily. There is no opposition and several head men have come in to pay their respects. A telegraph line is being laid to his Camp.

2nd.—From Cabul, 2nd February.—News from Ghazni states that there is a force of regular infantry with artillery at that place. Various rumours of movements and preparations to advance are rife, but no direct news of any considerable gathering or concerted action can yet be obtained. From the Lughman Valley it is stated that the force under Colonel Boisragon advanced ten miles on the 1st without opposition. The force was expected to reconnoitre and survey up to Debelai Kotal. The Governor of Lughman had returned from Kabul and been called upon to arrange for all supplies required for our troops.

4th.—From Kabul, 3rd February—A convoy of ammunition and treasure arrived on the 1st. Commissariat stores come regularly by local carriage. Snow fell on Sunday and to-day. Weather now bright and clear, 27 degrees of frost on the previous night. Favourable reports have been received of the capability of Lughman to furnish supplies and forage, Several headmen have come in to General Bright. Asmatulla Khan, Bahram Khan and other leading men are still holding aloof. The situation at and around Kabul remains unchanged. The defences of Sherpur and the Bala Hissar are progressing rapidly. Those on Siah Sang have been commenced. Dr. Hassard arrived at Kabul yesterday.

4th.—The Chief Commissioner of Assam reached Silchar on the morning of the 2nd, and telegraphs that there have been no more raids or rumours of raids. The excitement is quieting down, and the coolies, except at Balladhun, are returning generally to work. The regular outposts in this direction are Hangrung, below which the Nagas must have passed undetected, and Semkhor, further north on the border. Special guards are now posted, beginning from the east—two police at Balladhun and Diksia, four military at Lidiacherra and Bartol, covering Thaibe, Paticherra and Kumbergram. A party are also posted at the Cherra Gardens of Mr. Steel, north of the station, to restore confidence there, though no danger is anticipated. All is quiet on the south of the river. Kuki scouts have been despatched to trace the raiders—but no information has been yet received—no doubts are entertained of their being Angamis. Mr. Savi has been directed to double the guards at Semkhor and Hangrung, and beat up the whole country between. He was last heard of at Lukhema on the 27th; his chance of intercepting the raiders is uncertain. Mr. Patch, Police officer of Sylhet, with 40 frontier police, has been sent to strengthen the Kachar force.

6th.—From Lughman, February 4th. There is no change in the situation in Lughman. Supplies are difficult to procure as the villages in Katzi Aziz Khan are small hamlets of 30 to 60 houses, and have been cleared out by this time. Rafts will be ready to-day, and then supplies may come in from Charbagh and other places on the left bank of the Kabul river. Rumours about Jalalabad point to another movememt against Kabul.

From Kabul, February 5.—It is said that Muhammad Jan has ordered the forts of Alijan in Maidan to be prepared for reception of an infantry regiment. It is supposed this fort will be the head-quarters of the insurgents, or be occupied by a few men to stop supplies reaching us. The people of Charkh and Logar have refused to pay revenue, or to demolish the forts of our allies. Sirdar, Hussan Khan has about 400 men with him, and is recruiting disbanded soldiers. Muhammad Jan is now reported to have been recently wounded at Ghazni. From Peshwar it is reported that Moolla Khali has joined Moghul Khan of Goshta. Section of Mohmunds continue coming in to pay respects to Akbar Khan, the new Khan of Lalpura. Afridi affairs are quiet.

6th.—Kabul February 5.—The weather still continues very cold; but a bright sun during the day prevents sickness. The percentage of men in hospital now is—British troops including wounded, six and a quarter per cent; without wounded, just under five per cent.—native troops, including, five and a quarter per cent.; without wounded, four and half a per cent.

7th.—From Kandahar 6th February Muhammad Aslam Khan Tokhi attempting to levy contributions from some minor chiefs of his own tribe, wounded two of them, and has had to leave the country in consequence. Good rain fell at intervals from Saturday morning till Sunday evening when it changed to snow which ceased before next day. Hard frosts followed and cold more severe than at any period since our occupation of Kandahar. Agricultural prospects much improved and prices falling.

LOCAL.

THE PRESS AT THE TRADES' DINNER.

(From the Indian Daily News)

MR. WOMACK,—Mr. Master and Gentlemen,—The toast that I have the honor to propose for your acceptance this evening entails on me a comparatively easy task, as it is one, the benefits of which we all appreciate, and the advantages of which we all enjoy. I ask you to drink to the press, and long may it prosper. Most of us commence our day by opening our paper, and there find, provided for us, news from all parts of the world, while our interest is considerably enhanced at such stirring times as the present. It is true that what we find in the papers is not always pleasant reading for everyone, for severe remarks are sometimes made regarding the conduct of affairs, but I think it will be generally admitted that such remarks are made more in sorrow than in anger, and that editors rarely set down aught in malice. The cleverest writer in the world can only give his opinions from the information in his possession, and if any attempt is made to prevent his obtaining the best information, those who may be attacked, and who are in any way responsible for preventing his attaining it, ought not to blame the writer. Now, I consider that the late orders of Government, with regard to special correspondents at the seat of war, were a melancholy piece of folly: they were almost directly calculated to prevent the press from obtaining early authentic and reliable opinions about what was going on, and it is not to be wondered at that the press resented the rules, and wrote strongly regarding them. You may depend upon it, Gentlemen, that no number of official Press Commissioners will ever be able to compete successfully with private enterprise in obtaining news, to prevail upon the public to place such confidence in the information supplied, as in that obtained through independent sources. I think we have good reason to congratulate ourselves upon the independent spirit shown by all our principal newspapers, in combatting such an infraction, not only of the liberty of the press, but of the rights of the subject while the Press of India deserves our congratulations for providing us with special information, under such adverse circumstances. But it is not only in furnishing us with news that the Press of India has rendered us, of late, good service; it put its highest pressure on the Government in the matter of the License Tax, with the result that a more equitable system of taxation is to be introduced, while it strongly advocated the views held by all tradesmen anent the extension of the value-payable post system to England with, I still hope, the result of the final abandonment of the scheme. I might enumerate many other benefits that we derive from the press, but short speeches are to be the rule of the evening. I must not, however, omit to say a word or two about the Native Press, which, though we cannot always endorse its opinions, gives at any rate an opportunity of knowing what our native fellow-citizens think about men and measures, which cannot fail to be of the greatest good for the country. We have in India no representative institutions, but so long as the English and Native Press continue to be so well conducted as at present, we have no great cause of complaint, and can leave them as our representatives. As such, we should wish them every success, and I would ask you, therefore, Gentlemen, to drink the health of the Press, coupled with the names of Mr. Wilson of the *Indian Daily News*, and the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal of the *Hindoo Patriot*.

Mr. Wilson said, that knowing what he did of the business capacity of the members of the Trades' Association, it was strange that they should have made such an error as to call upon him to respond to the toast of the Press. If they would look at the back of the *menu*, they would find that that was the forty-ninth anniversary of the Trades' Association: and it would probably be a matter of surprise to many of them to hear, that there was a gentleman present who remembered the first anniversary. Such, however, was the fact. The gentleman to whom he referred was an old Press man, having in his time been Editor of the *Englishman*, the *Hurkaru*, and other papers in India. He was again on a visit to this country, and they would probably understand that he alluded to the venerable gentleman on his right, Doctor Ralph Moore. There was also another gentleman present who had control of a press, but whose claims to respond to the toast had been strangely overlooked; he meant the honorable the Lord Mayor of Calcutta, Mr. Souttar, who represented one of the most potent presses in the city. The Newspaper Press could only issue their opinions which might be taken for what they were worth, and be accepted or not. But the publications of Mr. Souttar's press were irresistible, for it was in fact a species of screw-press. He printed his rate and tax papers with a result that the other presses might envy. If they could not only work theirs for a time with the like effect, they would experience results to which most of them had long been strangers.

Mr. Chapman had said that we lived in the best possible world, Judging from what had been stated that night, it would almost appear so. They had the best of councils, and the Association gave the best of dinners. The consideration of this saddened him (Mr. Wilson), for it made him feel that journalists, who had to give expression to much dissatisfaction, were the most ungrateful wretches in the world. It had been said by Mr. Chapman that the Government of India was a despotism; and though it was almost necessarily such, those who lived under it had various privileges. No doubt that was so. People in this country were privileged to live; or, at least, they were privileged to take out licenses to try to obtain a living, and they were privileged to be taxed, whether they succeeded or not. That was a thing for which they ought to be grateful, for they might recognise in it a stroke of genius not unworthy a minister of finance. He did not purpose at that hour to occupy more of their time: for the Native Press had claims to be heard, and he would leave that part of the business to the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal: and content himself with thanking Mr. Womack for the kind things he had said of the Press, and the Association for the cordiality with which the toast had been received.

The Hon'ble Kristodas Pal said:—Master, Wardens, and Gentlemen,—I thank you most heartily and sincerely, on behalf of myself and of my brethren of the Native Press, for the great honor you have done us, and for the flattering terms in which my name has been coupled with the toast.

Gentlemen, another twelve months have rolled away since we met last at your festive board, and what a concatenation of events was there in that brief space of time! We all know what has occurred in Afghanistan; when the year opened the British flag waved over the mountain fastnesses of that country; little opposition was offered to our arms; our Generals had simply to go in and win; then came the Treaty of Gundamuck, which to all appearance terminated the war. But the fire had been smouldering; it had not been extinguished. It burst forth in an act of treachery and tragedy, which filled humanity with horror and indignation. In the heart of Cabul, under the shade of the Ameer's protection, confiding in the Afghan's friendship, hospitality, and word of honour, Louis Cavagnari and his brave and glorious band were on a sudden overwhelmed with a surging wave of blood-thirsty insurgents, and though they fought to the last—not man to man, but one man against hundreds and thousands—they were at last overpowered by the sheer force of numbers. Oh, what a falling-off was there! True, the sun of British success suffered only a temporary eclipse; those who knew the vast resources of England, the oaken heart of the British soldier, and the calm courage of the British statesman, did not for a moment doubt that the cloud would soon pass away. British honor has been avenged; the British soldier is again the master of Cabul; the British General is to all intents and purposes the Dictator of Afghanistan (cheers); but, alas! the lives that are gone will never come back again. (cheers). Where is that Promethean light, which can relume the lamp of the life of Louis Cavagnary—a soldier by instinct, born to command, not simply men of peace, but the wild children of nature, foremost at the post of danger, defying death in the discharge of duty, and destined to make a revolution in the land of the Afgans to the advantage of both Afghanistan and British India, if their foul and treacherous hands had not plucked off the flower just as it began to send forth its fragrance. Gentlemen, we do not know what the future of Afghanistan will be; we may differ in opinion as to the equities of the Afghan war; as to the moral responsibility of England and India respectively, to pay its expenses, and as to the military policy which has guided the campaign: but I think there can be no difference of opinion about this, that it has destroyed the Russian bugbear and torn into tatters the Afghan scare. (cheers). The Muscovite has retraced his steps from the wilds of Affghanistan and the Afghan has shown that, though he is capable of giving much trouble from behind, he is no match for the British and Indian soldier in a face-to-face fight. (Loud Cheers).

Gentlemen, if India has been involved in a bloody war in Afghanistan, there has been a bloodless war waged on behalf of her teeming millions, both here and in England—it is the war of public opinion. There have been recently many circumstances connected with the administration of this country, which have moved the heart-strings of the British nation, and impelled its great leaders to vindicate the trust with an earnestness, almost without a parallel in the history of India's connection with England. (Cheers.) People's William, and the nation's pride, John Bright, have been the foremost in lending their ringing and powerful eloquence to the advocacy of India's cause. That sightless, but stout-hearted, champion of India, Mr. Fawcett, has been unceasing in his exertions for the advancement of that cause. That really good and great man, who wielded the Indian sceptre four years ago, with such wisdom and beneficence, for which we the people of India feel so grateful to him—I allude to Lord Northbrook (cheers)—has also contributed his share to that mighty stream of activity regarding India matters, which is now flowing in fertilising showers upon the soil of England. Opinion has been expressed in this assembly, attributing this awakening of the English mind to Indian questions to party influences, party motives, and party conflict; but we, who are vitally interested in it, trace it to a far more generous impulse, far higher influence, far nobler motive—we hail it as the voice of the awakened national conscience of England, as the throbbing of the inner heart of the great English people, as a promise of the due fulfilment of Britain's sacred mission in the East. Gentlemen, if England is great, it is not because her sons sway the sea; her banners wave over an

empire in which the sun never sets, and her commerce encircles the world; but because she is the home of freedom, the asylum of oppressed men, the leader of hope to injured nationalities, and the prop of peoples, who have, under the mysterous working of destiny, fallen off from their high place of old, but who yet possess vitality enough to recover their pristine strength. India comes under the last category; a beneficent Providence has placed us under the shelter and care of England, and a greater glory, I venture to say, cannot crown the head of Britannia than to raise this, her elder sister, the mother of the world's ancient civilization, literature, and arts, to her primeval proud position, by the diffusion of the blessings of knowledge among her children, and by teaching them to govern themselves under the ægis of her protection. (Cheers).

Gentlemen, as England becomes more and more alive to her duty to India, the functions of the Native Press, as the interpreter between the rulers and the ruled, and *vice versa*, become more and more important, and are likely to be better appreciated. The millions of India are dumb, but the Press gives them a tongue; though poets sung and philosophers spoke, when India was under her national dynasty, and though literary activity was not unknown, when the Moslem held sway over her, the people then knew not the blessings of a free press, and therefore remained mute. The right of free speech is a glorious heritage, which you, Englishmen, and your ancestors, have brought into this country; it is a jewel above all price. It has made the Indian conscious that he is not a mere hewer of wood and drawer of water; that he is not a mere machine; that he has a mind which thinks, and a heart which feels, and that his rulers are anxious to know the promptings of his mind, and to receive the outpourings of his heart. In that consciousness lies his own strength as well as that of the ruling power. His loyalty to the British Crown is not an ignorant allegiance of the subject to the sovereign, an outward symbol of veneration of the weak for the strong, but an intelligent and satisfied acquiescence in the civilizing and elevating influence of the British sceptre. (Cheers). Gentlemen, you have heard just now the Hon'ble gentleman opposite (Mr. Chapman) describe the Government of India to be a despotism, tempered by office-boxes with missing keys; but it has been rightly defined by another gentleman to be a despotism tempered by public opinion, and be it said to the credit of that Government, that the public opinion, which now exists among the people of this country, is its own creation. (Cheers). These did not ask for that freedom of opinion, which they now prize so dearly, because they had never tasted it before; it was given unasked and unsolicited. And blessed are the rulers who make such precious gifts to their subjects of their own free will, and from their own sense of duty and responsibility, and happy the people who possess such magnanimous rulers! (Cheers). Notwithstanding the new Press Act, I am confident that the glorious privilege of a free expression of opinion, which the British Government has conferred upon us, will not in reality be taken away. And I feel the more confident from the compliment you annually pay to the Native Press, at this your national banquet, that you, independent Englishmen, the custodians of British honor and freedom in this far land, will not suffer it to be taken away. (Cheers.)

Gentlemen, I cannot conclude without saying one word about what has fallen from my friend, Mr. J. D. Bell. He complains that I chaffed the European members of the Bar about their treatment of its native members. Now, Gentlemen, I was always under an impression that a successful barrister generally carried a long memory; no one would deny that my friend was a successful barrister, but somehow or other, his memory has failed him in the present instance. In the first place, it was a British barrister, and not the *Patriot*, who gave the name of *Asia Minor* to that quarter of the Bar Library where the Native Barristers for the most part congregated; an esteemed correspondent of mine, who delighted in the name of *Fra Diavolo*, had made a humorous allusion to this quarter of the Bar Library. In the second place, when my attention was drawn to it, and it was represented to me by some friends, who were members of the Bar, that the Bar was aggrieved at the allusion made, inasmuch as it implied an invidious distinction between the British and Native Barristers, which did not really exist, I immediately inserted a contradiction in my paper. If his memory had not failed him, my friend (Mr. Bell), I am sure, would not have made the complaint. (Cheers).

The speaker sat down amid loud applause.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 7th February, 1880.

Our market during the week under review did not shew much improvement, almost the same amount of inactivity prevailed that did in the week previous, except in imports which towards the close of the week met with better enquiry and a fair amount of business was done.

IMPORTS.

This market has continued to maintain its firmness since some time past, but in the absence of demand operations were at a stand-still, since last 2 or 3 days a demand having sprung there was some business, even at enhanced rates.

Greys.—Shirtings 39 inch of all marks readily found buyers at an advance of 2 annas on the last prices. Madapallams, Mulls and Jaconets have also been sold at improved prices, White and T Red goods were in better demand even at higher rates.

Yarns—Both import and local manufactures met a warm reception and a good business done in 40s. and 20s. at 2 to 3 pie per morah in advance.

There is every probability of the import market continuing firm and active.

EXPORT.

During the week exports were confined to a small extent, owing to the season for most of the produces being at its close.

Indigo—Two public sales were held on the 2ad and 3rd instants by Messrs. J. Thomas & Co. and Wm. Moran & Co consisting 1052 chests of which 424 chests were withdrawn. The rest found buyers at fair prices.

Tea.—There was only one public sale on the 6th instant and 6207 chests were sold in the following order by the under-mentioned—

Messrs. Wm. Moran & Co.	...	2707 chests.
J. Thomas & Co.	...	2080 ,,
Carett & Co.	...	1112 ,,
W. S. Crosswell & Co.	...	300 ,,

at easier rates.

Jute.—The position of this staple remained almost the same as before.

The following transactions are reported to have taken place during the week in Rice, Table sorts—

Secta	...	500 tons 4-12	@ 4-14
Gross	...	700 ,, 3-14	@ 3-13
Ballam	...	8000 bags 2-12	@ 3-3
Kheeari	...	4000 ,, 2-6	@ 2-9
Raree	...	7000 ,, 2-7	@ 2-11

Oil seeds and Wheat—continue to be scarce and only very limited transactions took place at high rates.

MONETARY.

Money has not yet found sufficient employment for the requirements of trade and in consequence there has been no change in the rates of discount and interest.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AND JOINT-STOCK SHARES.

Government securities were little firmer and closing rates were for 4 % 93-3 @ 93-4
4½ % 101-3 @ 101-4.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Rs.	A.	P.
James Wilson Esq., Shillong	13	4	0
Secretary, Unjuman Refa Gonda	13	4	0
Hon'ble A. Shashia Sastree, C.I.E., Trichinopoly	13	4	0
Engineer-in-Chief, N. B. S. Railway, Saidpur	18	0	0
Shah Amjad Ullah, Ghazipor	3	5	0
Serampore Public Library	5	0	0
Baboo Shamachurn Pootinund, Luckhikaunt-pore	5	0	0
,, Shashodhur Mookerjee, Pankabaree	6	8	0
,, Ratnamony Goopta, Head Master Zillah School Mymensingh	13	4	0
,, Gobind Chunder Ghosal, Bundelcund	6	10	0
,, Peary Mohun Sen, Golaghat	20	0	0
,, Opendra Narain Nundi, Shahgunge	15	0	0
,, Bidhoovooson Pal Chowdhry, Latoodah	14	0	0
,, Kally Churn Ghose, Nurrail	3	14	0
,, Dwarkanath Bhottacharjee, Jahanabad	2	0	0
,, Mohim Chunder Sircar, Pubna	6	10	0
,, Suresh Chunder Bose, Mussurree Hill	6	10	0
,, Prosunno Cumar Ghose, Magoorah	10	0	0
,, Umanath Mojoomdar, Bogra	10	0	0
,, Ramdoolal Khan, Santipore	15	0	0
,, Poorno Chunder Banerjee, Dacca	13	4	0
,, Binode Behary Mitter, Commillah	15	0	0
,, Eshan Chunder Mojoomdar, Bharenga	10	0	0
,, Tarack Chunder Chatterjee, Bhaturia	10	0	0
,, Raghoo Nath Sahoy, Arrah	13	4	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*February* 4, 1880.

GENERAL—Baboo Bhugwan Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gya, was on leave from the 15th October to the 15th December 1879, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Moulvi Ikram Russool, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maldah, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 10, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code, in extension of that granted to him under orders of the 1st August last.

Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong, is appointed to act as Secretary to the Board of Revenue, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. L. Harrison, or until further orders.

Mr. A. Manson, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Mymensing, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, or until further orders.

Mr. J. Samuel Armstrong, Magistrate and Collector of Poorce, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 26th instant.

Mr. F. F Handley, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cuttack, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Pooree, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. J. Samuel Armstrong, or until further orders.

Mr. C. F. Worsley, Magistrate, and Collector, Mozufferpore, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the First Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 26th ultimo, *vice* Mr, J. Samuel Armstrong.

Mr. E. V. Westmacott, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Noakholly, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the 26th ultimo, *vice* Mr. C. F. Worsley.

Baboo Rakhal Das Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for two months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 16th ultimo, or from any subsequent date on which he availed himself of it.

Mr. D. W.M. Testro, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is allowed subsidiary leave for 28 days, with effect from the 4th December last, to enable him to join his appointment on return from furlough.

Mr. W. Fiddian, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, is allowed leave for one month, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Captain A. S. Urquhart, Behar Mounted Rifle Volunteer Corps, is allowed leave for one year, with effect from such date as he may availed himself of it,

Mr. J. Monro, Inspector-General of Police, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Presidency Division, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. B. Peacock, or until further orders.

Advertisements.

WANTED.

A Head-Master for the Jahanabad H. C. E. School on a salary of Rs. 60 a month. Applications must reach the undersigned on or before the 17th Instant.

DWARKA NATH BHATTACHARJI,
Jahanabad, via Srirampoor, } Secretary.
5th February 1880. }

Notice.

F. & C. OSLER invite inspection of their Grand Crystal Glass Cabinet or Sideboard which was made for the Paris Exhibition and is now on view in their Show-room.

12 Old Court House Street, Calcutta.

Notice.

RUSSICK LALL SIRCAR'S Comprehensive Key to Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare, IN 2 PARTS COMPLETE, nearly (900) pages, 12mo. Price Rs. 2 two, and postage 2 annas.

Which is also a Key to Shakespeare's *four Great Plays*, and a hand-book of English idiomatic and colloquial phrases, and synonyms, to be had only at No. 77, Mooktaram Baboo's Street, Calcutta; or Cossipore, via, *Baranagore Post Office*, in the latter of which all money orders should be made payable.

GOVERNMENT CINCHONA FEBRIFUGE.

An efficient substitute for Quinine. Sold by the principal European and Native Druggists of Calcutta, obtainable from the Superintendent, Botanical Garden, Calcutta. Post free, at—4 oz., Rs. 6: 8 oz., Rs. 11: 16 oz., Rs. 20-12. Cash with order.

Notice is hereby given that the Audit and Examination of the Municipal Accounts for the year 1879 will be made under Section 63 of Act IV (B.C) of 1876, at the office of the Commissioners from and after the 21st February 1880, and that a copy of the accounts to be Audited and Examined, will be open during office hours for the inspection of all parties interested, from and after the 14th idem.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.
CRUSHED FOOD.

Tenders are hereby invited for the supply of Crushed food, for Horses and horned Cattle at the Municipal Gowkhanahs, for the eleven Months ending 31st March 1881.

Specification and Conditions, of Contract can be had on application at the Enginers Office. A deposit of Rs 100 is to accompany each tender as earnest money.

Tenders to be addressed under sealed Cover to the Engineer, superscribed *Tender for Crushed food*, and will be received up to noon of the 20th instant.

JAMES KIMBER C. E.
ENGINEER TO THE CORPORATION.

F. W. BAKER & Co.,

GRAND SHOW

ARTIFICIAL

FLOWERS IN POTS

Second batch just opened.

New and Rare Plants

Standard Roses in full blossom.

As the above are a great speciality and the supply limited an early inspection is solicited.

New Carpets, Reps, Rugs, Curtains,
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NUMEROUS TESTIMONIALS
Sold at No. 25, Prosono Coomar Tagore's St., Calcutta
Price Rs. 5 per phial
Re. 1 in addition for postage and packing.
U. N. BAGCHI, M.A.,
Manufacturing Chemist.

NOTICE UNDER ACT I. (B.C.) OF 1878.

Notice is hereby given that all persons carrying on business in Calcutta and liable to the Bengal License Tax must apply for and take out license for the current official year (1879 80) before the 14th Instant. Failing to do so they will render themselves liable to a heavy penalty and will be proceeded against according to law.

M. R. SHIRCORE,
License Officer.

Calcutta, Municipal Office,
The 2nd February 1880.

WANTED a Graduate of the Calcutta University as Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Preference given to a Latin Scholar. Salary Rs. 50 per mensem, for 12 hours per week teaching. Apply to the Principal Cathedral Mission College.

WANTED as Second-Master for the Cathedral Mission Collegiate School, a B.A. who knows Latin. Salary Rs. 40 per month, with prospects of rise. Apply to the Principal of the Cathedral Mission College or to the Head-Master of the School, 33 Amherst Street, Calcutta.

WANTED a professional Surveyor and Leveller (for 3 months only). Salary Rs. 75 including travelling allowance. Candidates to submit their applications to the undersigned with copies of testimonials on or before the 10th February 1880.

RADHA MADHAV BASU,
Vice-Chairman,
Road Cess Committee, Hazaribagh.

Hazaribagh,
The 27th January 1880.

NOTICE.

G. R. Naylor, M.D., M. R. C. S., late of Chitpure Dispensary, available for private practice. Advice gratis 10½ to 11½ A. M. 256, Bowbazaar Street.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

President.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE, K.T.

Vice-Presidents.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND, K.G.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.

Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE
SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY,
Held at Edinburgh on Friday 4th April, 1879.

The Directors submitted the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December, 1878.

Life Business.

During the year there were issued 1034 Policies, assuring £1,034,651, the new Premiums on which amount to £33,,022-17-3.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 20 Endowments, were 262 in number, arising under 322 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amounts, with Bonus additions, to the sum of £220,243-10, after deducting reassurances.

The Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,852,566-11-3, being £140,689-19-8 above what it was on 31st December, 1877. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

Annuity Business.

In the Annuity Department 55 Bonds were issued securing the sum of £2,969-0-6 yearly, and for which, the Company received the sum of £28,892-9-4.

INDIAN BRANCH.
CHIEF OFFICE FOR INDIA.
1, HASTING STREET, CALCUTTA.

Local Board of Directors:

R. A. Lyall, Esq. (Lyall, Rennie & Co.,) Merchant.
E. T. Roberts, Esq., Solicitor.
Robert Steel, Esq., Merchant.
General Agents for India: ROBERTS, MORGAN & CO., No. 1, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

N. B.—Persons assured with Profits in this Company are not liable as shareholders or members of the Company.

Lime Supply for Bengal.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the leases of the undermentioned Lime-Quarries situate in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Assam, will be put up to AUCTION sale at the office of the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet at noon on the 15th March 1880.

The leases will be for three years and seven months commencing from 1st April 1880 and ending 31st October 1883.

Not more than three leases will be permitted to be purchased in one interest.

Any quarry not worked, *i. e.*, not worked to turn out more than 40,000 maunds per annum, will be liable to resumption, and the Government will be at liberty to work such resumed quarry by direct agency.

The rent will be payable half-yearly in advance.

Further conditions will be duly notified at the time of sale.

No.	Names of quarries.	Where situate.
1	Nongthalong Poonjee.	*Jaintia Hills.* *North.*—By Padoo and Pamtadong Poonjees. *South.*—By boundary of Sylhet district. *East.*—By old road leading from the plains to Amwie Poonjee. *West.*—By Moonghat river and Borseel.
2	Moorali Cherra ..	*North.*—By Sootang Poonjee. *South.*—By northern boundary of Rowai lime-quarry. *East.*—By Looba or Looke river. *West.*—By Western limit of lands appertaining to Moorali Poonjee.
3	Roopnath ...	*North.*—As far as limestone exists northward within lands pertaining to the village of Roopnath. *South.*—By boundary of Sylhet district. *East.*—By Ooloo Cherra river. *West.*—By old road leading to Amwie Poonjee from the plains.
4	Lama Pooshee ...	*North.*—By Lakadong. *South.*—By boundary of Rowai limestone quarry. *East.*—By western boundary of the lands pertaining to Morali Poonjee. *West.*—By Moonghat river and Borseel. *Malai Soh-mot State.* *Khasi Hills.*
5	Nokria Cherra ...	*North.*—By south bank of Majdoora. *South.*—By Pandendish jungle. *East.*—By Mashim Khasia's garden. *West.*—By Shia Sing Khasia's garden. *Maharam State.* *Khasi Hills.*
6	RamsemdemRajke	*North.*—By Chapagar. *South.*—By Pook Cherra. *East.*—By Kalaram Rai Cherra. *West:*—By Hurrin Tilla Dhul. *Bhowal State.* *Khasi Hills.*
7	Bhowal Cherra ...	*North.*—By Chota Teekar Tilla. *South.*—By Kala Pani, *alias* Pukri Blei. *East.*—By Mongla-mora Tilla. *West.*—By Cherra Khowri Cherra *Maodon* *Khasi Hills*
8	Ka Long Long ...	*North*—By Maw Ngein *South*—By Chilai Cherra *East*—By Umjinden Cherra *West*—By Waiblei and Chilla Cherra *Maharam State* *Khasi Hills*
9	Tangla ...	*North*—By Komoni Teekor as far as lime-beds exist *South*—By Pak Cherra *East*—By Dhaymalia river *West*—By Kalaram Rai Cherra *Maharam and Maiong* *Khasi Hills*
10	Manai Cherra ...	*North*— *South*— By forest and jungle lands pertaining to Maharam *East*— *West*—By Jadukata, *alias* Pona-thirth river *Maodon* *Khasi Hills*
11	Umjindem ...	*North*—By Lumrai-by-nem *South*—By Lum Tenget *East*—By Umiap *West*—By Umjindem Cherra *Dwara Nongtyrmen* *Khasi Hills*
12	Bor Syrmai ...	*North*—By Pan garden *South*—By Ka Lad-Luka *East*—By Lumdilong *West*—By Lum-raitruth *Khasi Hills*
13	Silai Cherra ...	*North*—By Lum-khar-proh *South*—By Um-sao-leim *East*—By Silai river *West*—Lum-di-long *Khyrim.* *Khasi Hills*
14	Mokertilla ..	*East*—By the Moonghat river *West and North*—By lands pertaining to Maoatoon and Umshapiang Poonjees *South*—By the Pyen river

W. F TROTTER,
Offg Deputy-Commissioner
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

SHILLONG:
Deputy Commissioner's Office,
The 23rd December 1879.

NOTICE.

The Medicine for Leprosy of all kinds is for sale at a reduced price. Apply to

RAJKRISTO MOOKERJI,
Belghoriah.

THE ELEMENTS OF ARITHMETIC.

BY GOOROO DASS BANERJI, M.A., D.L.,

Price Re. 1-8.

May be had of Mookerji & Co., Calcutta Press, 84, Radha Bazar Calcutta.

NOTICE is hereby given that the monopoly right to quarry limestone, in the tracts bordering the Summessuri and the Moheskhali Rivers in the Garo Hills District, will be put up to public auction at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Tura, on the 15th March 1880, on the following conditions:—

1. The Summessuri and the Moheshkhali tracts will be sold separately and each tract will comprise the land lying within one quarter of a mile on both sides of each River.

2. The leases to be in force for 10 years, *viz.* from the 1st April 1880 to the 31st March 1890.

3. The upset annual rent for either lease will be 500 Rupees, the highest bidder will obtain the lease or leases.

4. A royalty of Rs. 20 per 1000 maunds of lime stone quarried will be paid by the lessee to Government. The rent will merge in the royalty.

5. The Menimum outturn of each quarry is fixed at 40,000 maunds of lime stone per annum.

6. The rent will be payable in half-yearly instalments in advance *viz* on the 1st April and the 1st October.

7. The leases will be liable to resumption if the above conditions are not complied with, or if quarring is not commenced, *bona fide*, within two years of the sale of the leases.

H. WEST,
Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.

Deputy Commissioner's Office,
Tura, Garo Hills,
The 10th January, 1880.

NOTICE is hereby given that the monopoly right to quarry Coal, in the tracts bordering the Summessuri and the Moheshkhali Rivers in the Garo Hills District, will be put up to public auction at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Tura, on the 15th March 1880, on the following conditions:—

1. The Summessuri and the Moheshkhali tracts will be shold separately and each will comprise the land lying within one quarter of a mile on both sides of each River.

2. The leases to be in force for 10 years *viz.* from 1st April 1880 to the 31st March 1890.

3. The upset annual rent for either lease will be 500 Rupees, the highest bidder will obtain the lease or leases.

4. A royalty of 3 annas per 1000 tons of coal quarried will be paid by the lessee to Government. The rent will merge in the royalty.

5. The minimum outturn of each quarry is fixed at 10,000 maunds of coal per annum.

6. The rent will be payable in half-yearly instalments in advance *viz.* on the 1st April and 1st October.

7. The leases will be liable to resumption if the above conditions are not complied with, or if quarring is not commenced, *bona fide*, within two years of the sale of the leases.

H. WEST,
Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.

Deputy Commissioner's Office,
Tura, Garo Hills,
The 10th January, 1880.

KANCHI KAVERI,

OR

THE CAPTIVE PRINCESS.

A Poem by Baboo Rangolala Bannerji,

Price, Re. 1-4.

To be had at the Sanskrit Press Depository and the Canning Library.

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The light is further Specially suited for nautches, marriage fetes, Fairs, Balls and such entertainments.

Estimates will be forwarded on application to the General Manager or Chief Engineer, care of

GILLANDERS ARBUTHNOT & Co.,
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SILVER MEDALS FOR THE YOUTH OF BOTH SEXES

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The Empress Medal, Rs. 30 cash.

Having been repeatedly asked for a Medal bearing the representation of Her Majesty the Queen, we have just produced

THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA" COLLEGE AND SCHOOL MEDAL.

A GOLD or SILVER MEDAL, of 1¾ inches in diameter.

Cash Prices { Gold Medal, in Case ... ... Rs. 200
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It bears on the OBVERSE the head and bust of Her Majesty, within the legend "Victoria Empress," and on the REVERSE a raised Laurel Wreath only; thus leaving space for inscription. *Vide* Illustration.

The Temple of Fame Medal 1¾-inch, Rs. 20 cash in case.
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Plain Silver Medals, 1¼ inches diameter ... Rs. 10 in case.
,, ,, 1½ ,, ,, ... Rs. 14 ,,
Silver Medals, with Wreath on each side, 1¾ inches diameter ... ... Rs. 19 ,,

NOTE.—The prices quoted are for the Medals and Cases only. Any engraving or inscription which may be ordered to be cut upon them will be subject to a further charge, varying according to the cost of production.

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MESSRS. CORFIELD & Co., Surgeon Dentists of Calcutta invite the attention of the Native community to their celebrated Artificial Teeth. These teeth are not, as many are made of ivory or bone, but are made purely of *stone*. They may therefore be worn by Orthodox Hindus, without violence to their caste prejudices.

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Observe the address.

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(NEXT TO F. AND C. OSLER,)
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T. E. THOMSON & CO.

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Strong Wrought Iron Doors and Frames, and Patent Strong WroughtIron, Fireproof Safes.

These Safes are lined throughout with the best known Fire-resisting and Non-conducting composition. The Doors are protected by Chubb's Patent drill-preventive, in addition to the principle of fitting a plate of hardened Steel between the lock and door, and secured by Chubb's Patent Gunpowder-proof Locks, containing all the recently patented improvements.

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TERMS EASY—Cash.

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Homœopathic Practitioner.

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Undertakes to execute printing works in English, Bengali and Nagri on very moderate charges.

G. C. BOSE & Co.,—*Managing Proprietors.*

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Apply to *Printer*

FOR COMMISSION SALE.

Valuable Kashmir Shawls, Chogas &c., and Kashmir Carpets.

Apply to,— PARBATI CHURN MOOKERJI,
122, Durmahatta Street, Hatkholla, Calcutta.

We have this day established ourselves as General Commission Merchants. Mr. M. Durst signs our firm per procuration.

SIGG-SULZER & Co.,
Office, 19, Radha Bazar.
(Apcar House.)

Calcutta, 1st January 1880.

NOTICE.

Phrases and Idioms by Krishna Chandra Roy, Part I. 4 annas, Part II. 5 annas, Postage ½ anna. To be had at the Sanskrit Press Depository, Calcutta.

MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Sixteenth Annual *Conversazione* of the above Society will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday the 12th February 1880, at 9 P. M.

ABDOOL LUTIEF,
Secretary.

By appointment,
To HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJAH DHEERAJ OF BURDWAN.

C. K. SEN & CO.

KOBIRAJ DRUGGISTS AND CHEMISTS,

Calcutta,

AYUR VEDA MEDICAL HALL
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Dantashodhana Churna or celebrated Dentifrice.

The regular use of this powder is sure to cure all diseases of the gums, cures ulceration, prevents bleeding, sweetens the breath, perfectly cleanses the teeth of tartar and all other noxious matters and renders them pearl white.

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If the disease be of one years standing, the use of one box only of this medicine is sure to cure. If it be of long standing, the regular use of the medicines for a longer period will cure 90 cases out of 100, and it is warranted to remove all complications such as fever, debility &c. however long they may have existed. It also restores the virile powers which have been lost on account of the malady.

Price per box Rs. 2, postage & 8 annas.
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C. K. SEN. & CO.'S
Kuntalabrishya or World-famed Hair Restorer.

The regular use of this invaluable oil most certainly cures baldness and prevents the hair from falling off or turning prematurely grey. It cures diseases of the head and brain and strengthens weak and failing eye-sight. It possesses a very sweet odour.

Price per Bottle Re. 1. *Postage &c.,* 10 *As.*
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C. K. SEN & CO. 'S
Superior & Genuine Makaradhwaja.

This is one of the most potent medicines of the Hindu Pharmacopœa, never fails to produce the most satisfactory results in cases of debility from whatever cause arising seminal, constitutional or otherwise. It acts like a charm in typhus or typhoid fevers, chronic diarrhœa, habitual constipation, gleat, gonorrhœa, spermatorrhœa, female complaints after delivery, weakness of the brain from excessive mental labor, and in all complaints to which the persons of sedentary habits are especially subject.

Price 7 grains per Rupee or Rs. 24 *per Tolah.*
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All the above preparations are perfectly innocuous and may be taken by persons of all sexes and ages with perfect safety.

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For particulars apply to Dr. Bhoobun Mohun Sircar, No. 77, Mooktaram Baboo's Street, Chore Bagan, Calcutta.—**Price Rs. 3-8,**
Sole Agents. B. M. SIRCAR. & Co.

Notice.

Krishnaghur Exhibition—an Exhibition of Cattle Agricultural produce, Fruits, Vegetables, Implements of husbandry, Machines and other articles, will be held in the Town of Krishnaghur, from the 12th to the 17th February next, both days inclusive. Prizes will be awarded to the Exhibitors of the best specimens.

The Exhibition will afford a good opportunity to Traders to dispose of their articles.

TARAPADA BANERJI,
Honorary Secretary.

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